

Hafa Adai!

Man accused of raping minor pleads not guilty. **PAGE 2**

How your employees could get their COVID-19 vaccines at workplace. **PAGE 3**

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 127

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY JUNE 29, 2021

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SIMPLIFIED ARRIVAL AT SIA

CBP to use facial biometrics tech

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in partnership with the Commonwealth Ports Authority, announced yesterday the implementation of the Simplified Arrival process at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport in the CNMI.

Simplified Arrival is an enhanced international arrival process that uses facial biometrics to automate the manual document checks that are already required for admission into the United States. This process provides travelers with a touchless process that

See CBP on Page 4

'80-85% is herd immunity target'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Herd immunity in the CNMI can be claimed once 80-85% of the population that are eligible to receive the CO-

VID-19 vaccines have been fully vaccinated, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña.

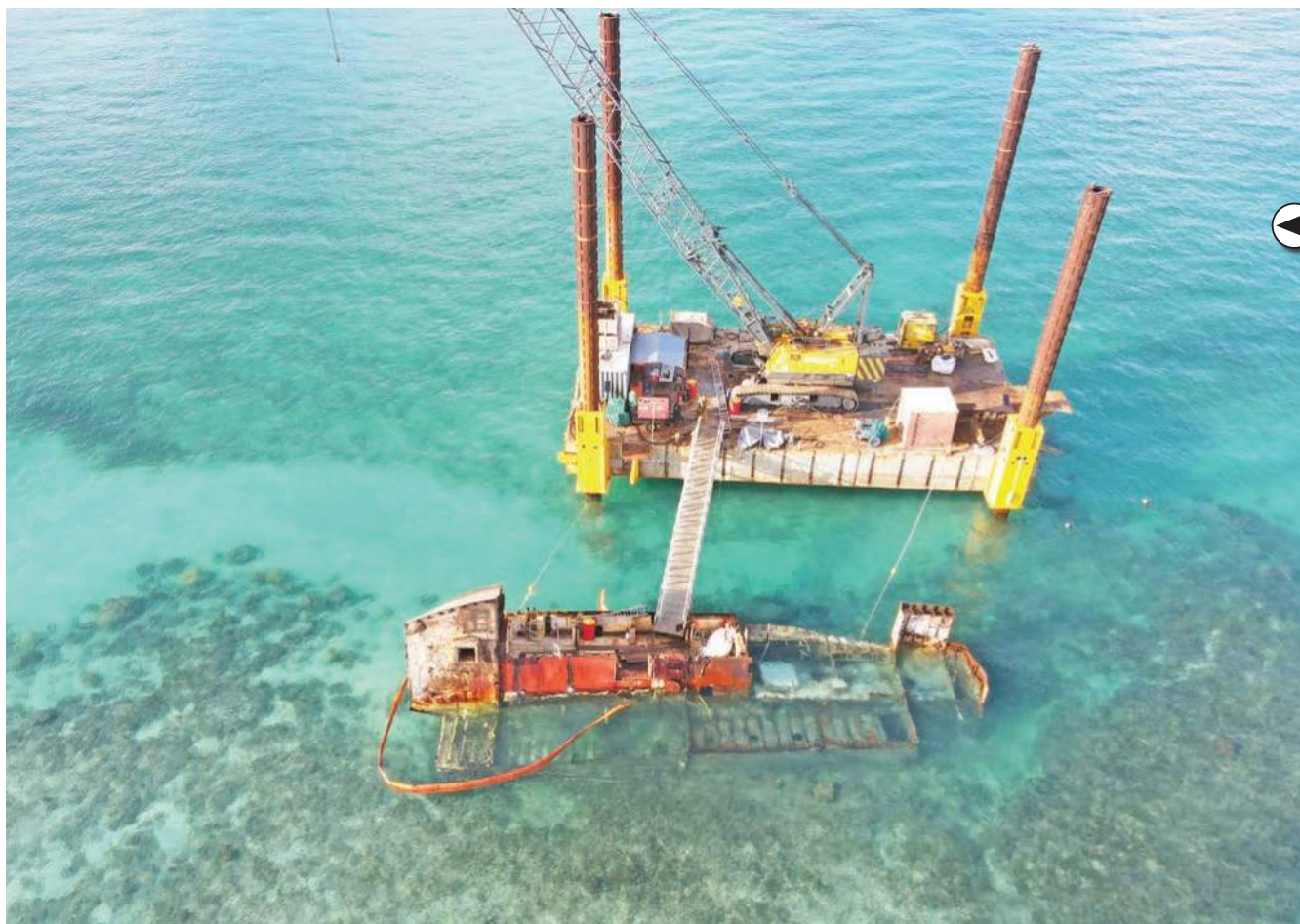
As of press time yesterday, 63.5% of the CNMI's population that are eligible to receive vaccinations are already fully vaccinated. Even when the number was still at just 63.2% last Sunday, Muña said this

See TARGET on Page 4

NEARLY DONE

Work to remove the derelict fishing vessel *Lady Carolina* from the Saipan Lagoon appears to be nearing its end. The project, which is being handled by Pacific Coastal Research & Planning, got started around May 24, 2021, and was expected to take about two months. The vessel had been grounded since 2015 during Typhoon Soudelor and was further damaged during Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. Photo taken by licensed commercial drone pilot BJ Eddy. Check out his YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/mydiGis7xwY>.

BJ EDDY



CHCC's Guerrero wins nat'l nursing award

Nursing manager Milesceyln Guerrero of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has been given the Excellence in Nursing Management Award presented by the

American Nephrology Nurses Association.

Guerrero, who is the nurse manager for CHCC's Jose T. Vilagomez Center for Dialysis, was

chosen from a pool of national candidates and was selected through a review process. The award comes with a \$1,000 prize

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Guerrero

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Former IPI chair could be found in contempt, again

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Imperial Pacific International Holdings chair Cui Li Jie could be found in contempt of court again for her alleged pattern of behavior to obstruct efforts to preserve her phone records.

According to the third status report regarding Cui's failure to abide by the federal court's

See FORMER on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:15pm, June 28, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **63.5%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	24,958
Fully Vaccinated:	22,694
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,090
Fully Vaccinated:	3,801
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	428

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,328	16	8,344
Recovered	8,104	18	8,122
Active	66	16	82
Deaths	139	1	140
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	176,658		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	0	183
Traced via Travel Screening	147	0	147
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	97		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE



LOCAL

Fourteen high schoolers from Tinian Jr./Sr. High School get new fishing rods and reels.

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BUSINESS

With a historic drought in the United States, officials are canceling fireworks displays this July 4.

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ASIA

At least seven people died and dozens were injured in an explosion in Bangladesh.

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Local

Man accused of raping minor pleads not guilty

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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 REPORTER

An 18-year-old man accused of raping a 12-year-old girl on church grounds pleaded not guilty before the NMI Superior Court yesterday.

John Timothy Villasis Vergara, 18, pleaded not guilty before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja to the charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and sexual assault in the first degree.

Vergara, who came to court out of Department of Corrections custody, waived the reading of his rights and was ordered to return to court on July 29 at 10am for a status conference before Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Vergara allegedly raped the victim on two occasions: at a birthday party in Micro Beach in August 2020, and in the restroom of the Jesus is Lord Church last June 2 during a church anniversary practice.

During an interview with the victim's mother on June 8, she told Department of Public

Safety investigators that the second alleged rape incident happened during a church anniversary practice.

The following day, June 9, a DPS investigator attended a forensic interview with the victim at the Division of Youth Services where she alleged that the second incident happened at around 7pm on June 2.

The first incident that happened on August 2020 was reported at the Commonwealth Health Center on Jan. 25. During an interview with Dr. Heather Taylor, the victim wrote on a paper that they were celebrating her brother's birthday at Micro Beach when she went into the ocean with her mother's friend's son, Vergara, and the incident happened. That prompted the doctor to report the incident to DPS.

During Vergara's preliminary hearing last week, Office of the Public Defender's JP Nogues, the court-appointed counsel for Vergara, extracted testimony from Department of Public Safety detective Shannon Dela Cruz that, as of the hearing, there was no physical evidence in the case.

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How your employees could get their COVID-19 vaccines at workplace

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Workplaces can now serve as COVID-19 vaccination sites but they must first register with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and give CHCC at least a week to prepare for the outreach.

CHCC administrator Heath-

er S. Pangelinan, who walked *Saipan Tribune* through the logistics, said the process from registration with CHCC to administering a vaccine shot at a new outreach site takes around a week. Pangelinan advised that businesses interested in using their workplaces as vaccination sites call 682-SHOT (7468) and register with

CHCC at least four business days before the intended vaccination date to allow CHCC staff ample time to assess the proposed site. The assessment will determine if the workplace has enough space for a check-in area, a vaccine administration area, and a post-vaccination observation area.

Pangelinan said “a couple

of businesses” are currently in the process of registering their workplaces to be vaccination sites in July.

Separately, it was learned from CHCC spokesperson Guillermo Lifofoi on Monday that right now registered workplaces serve as vaccination sites for one rotation of first and second doses. If demand for vaccines at a certain outreach site is high, CHCC will schedule additional rotations. Lifofoi urged the community to keep up to date with outreach schedules on vaccinatecnmi.com, where the schedule is updated weekly.

According to Pangelinan, the number of vaccines that CHCC will deliver to an out-

reach site is determined during registration, with businesses needing to show that at least 15 individuals have registered to receive vaccines at the proposed outreach site. Depending on demand, on average CHCC provides 10-15 personnel per outreach event. Additionally, personnel from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services will provide onsite support to assist with vaccination operations.

Delivery of these vaccines to an outreach site is done by the CHCC Immunization program, which will use portable vaccine storage units to provide outreach sites with vaccines at the start of their scheduled vaccination times. Once the vaccines arrive at

a site, CHCC will provide refrigeration units equipped with thermometers and other temperature monitoring equipment that will allow the site’s vaccination team to monitor the temperature ranges of the vaccines.

As of press time Monday, CHCC’s next pop-up vaccination site will be at Tanapag Middle School, open from 1pm to 4pm on July 1 and open from 8am to 2pm on July 7 and 8.

The main vaccination hubs on Saipan, CHCC’s Medical Care and Treatment Site, is currently open for second shots only from 8am to 12:30am on Monday to Saturday, and the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center provides both first and second doses from 8am to 6pm on Monday to Friday and 8am to 4pm on Saturday.

Villagomez backs CNMI delegation’s South Korea trip to ink travel bubble

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Optimistic that the CNMI’s tourism industry is going to rebound, House Speaker Ed- “We have no room for hate here in the CNMI”

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Speaking as a private citizen, Tyra Sablan is hopeful that House Bill 22-18, or the “Hate Crimes Act of 2021,” will be passed by the Senate and enacted into law by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

H.B. 22-18, which is authored by Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), was unanimously passed by the House of Representatives on June 17 and is awaiting the Senate’s decision on it as of press time Monday. If passed by the Senate, the bill then goes to Torres for signing.

In an interview with her last Friday, Sablan said that she sought community support for the bill and explained that while CNMI’s incidences of hate crimes are much lower than what is seen in the U.S. mainland, having legislation like H.B. 22-18 is needed in the CNMI to maintain its “close-knit community” and “culture of love.”

“I think that everybody feels the same way where we have no room for hate here in the CNMI. It’s all about love, we want to respect each other. The CNMI is very diverse,” said Sablan.

As for the bill’s chances in the Senate, Sablan is hopeful and extends her gratitude to the House for unanimously passing the bill. If H.B. 22-18 does make its way to Torres, Sablan believes he would sign the bill. “[Torres has] been very proactive and very progressive. He’s a big supporter of the LGBTQ+ community and we love him for that,” said Sablan.

Sablan and others will be at the CNMI House of Representatives chamber on Wednesday, participating in the House Committee on Health and Welfare’s first-ever “CNMI Pride Talks.”

mund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) expressed support yesterday to the CNMI’s delegation that flew to South Korea to sign a travel bubble agreement with the South Korean government.

As this developed, the *Korea Herald* published an article last week reporting the soaring demand for overseas travel after the South Korean government’s recent announcements that travel bubble partnerships with other countries could be in the cards.

The *Korea Herald*, which bills itself as South Korea’s largest English-language daily, said that grounded travel-hungry individuals are anticipating a return of quarantine-free holidays.

When asked for comments about the delegation’s trip, Villagomez said the CNMI needs to find ways to bring back its main industry, which is tourism.

He said the CNMI has been given a break by federal funding from the the American Rescue Plan Act and other funding laws, but they are for a limited time.

“We need to capitalize on this opportunity and hope for the best,” the speaker said.

Villagomez said he hopes Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who is leading the delegation, and the team bring back knowledge from their trip to help make this travel bubble concept work.

“I wish them well,” said Villagomez, adding that this travel bubble will add jobs and add to the economy. “And who knows? We can open up little by little down the road.”

Torres and the delegation flew yesterday to South Korea to sign the travel bubble deal that is key to the CNMI’s efforts to jumpstart its economy by opening its doors to South Korean tourists under its pilot Tourism Resumption Investment Program, or TRIP.

Torres said over the weekend that he and the delegation will meet with officials of South Korea’s Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation to sign the travel bubble agreement tomorrow, Wednesday.

The delegation will also go to the Korea Center of Disease Control Agency and conduct site visits. They will also have meetings with airlines and top travel agencies.


**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW21-RFP-027**

SUBMISSION DATE: July 23, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“Engineering and Design Related Services
for Route 103 Road Improvements, Rota”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **July 09, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 16, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho**, Director Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente has asked to be given 10 more days to submit to Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) documents related to the CNMI Department of Labor’s issuance of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefits.

Benavente wrote DeLeon Guerrero last Friday, request-



ing the additional 10 calendar days or until July 7, 2021 to submit the documents, in consideration of the breadth of records that the senator asked from her.

She said Labor received DeLeon Guerrero’s request for records last June 17. She assured that the department has begun to compile the requested records and intends to cooperate to the fullest extent possible.

In her Open Government Act request to Benavente, De-

Leon Guerrero asked for the production of documents relevant to PUA/FPUC issuance. The senator asked Benavente to submit to her office within 10 calendar days, among other records, all internal allotment advices related to PUA and FPUC funding.

DeLeon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that she made the OGA request because she has been receiving a lot of messages from applicants that are still waiting for their application/benefit status.


Commonwealth Utilities Corporation


Job Vacancy Announcement
JVA No. 21 – 043

Opening Date: May 11, 2021 • Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE: DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY: CONTRACT: POSITION(S):	Engineer Water & Wastewater Division Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA \$40,084.00 to \$54,113.00 per annum, Exempt Contracted Two (2)
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The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Position is assigned to both routine and simple water and sewer facilities and projects.

Duties:

- To perform field measurements for distance, elevation, flows, pressures and other elements related to water and sewer system designs, including configuration of water/sewer facilities, utilizing surveying equipment and GIS system.
- Design size and length of water mains, capacity (pumping rate and head) of booster stations, size, slope, and distance of sewer gravity mains and force mains, size, pumping capacity, and liquid level control of Lift stations.
- Design drawings to portray facilities to be constructed based on completed design and specification preparation for water systems and water sources, transmission and distribution pipelines and storage tank, including wastewater systems and facilities sewer lines, sewer pumping stations and treatment plants.
- Writes reports for engineering feasibility analysis, evaluations, such as water and wastewater flow, well production, water loss, electrical consumption, system hydraulics.
- Prepare scopes of work for a variety of A&E consultant services related to existing and proposed water and sewer systems; Analysis of water system operation performance by pressure zone.
- Operations support such as review of operating mode and system configuration, water leaks detection, repairs and recovery of water loss.
- Ensure proper installation and monitoring of pilot control system using supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA).
- Effects repairs to multiple emergency power generators for the wastewater lift stations;
- Responsible for overseeing the engineering aspect of the water and wastewater system operations modifications, maintenance and repairs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil, Environmental, or Mechanical Engineering and four years of related engineering experience.
Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and wastewater conveyance and treatment concepts; project management principles; construction techniques; safe work practices; applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; reading, understanding, and preparing drawings for construction contracts; preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; interpreting and preparing specifications; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to use computers and related software applications; communicate, interact with co-workers, supervisor, contractors, representatives of other agencies and departments, and the general public to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction; use AutoCAD to prepare plans for utility projects and contracts is a plus. Registration as an Engineer-In-Training in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is preferred but not required. Applicants licensed as a Professional Engineer in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is encouraged to apply.

- **Licensing:**
 - Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.
- **Physical Demands:**
 - Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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DOL addresses misinformation about PUA

In response to misinformation circulated in the community regarding the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Open Government Act Requests for information related to PUA, the CNMI Department of Labor said that administration of the program has been thoroughly conducted under federal guidelines by the U.S. Department of Labor.

“The CNMI Department of Labor has been striving for the proper administration of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program under the strict guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Labor,” said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente. “And I am aware that certain people in our community and even our Leg-

islature are attempting to politicize the proper processing of these benefits by slandering me in my official capacity as the secretary of Labor and making false statements against the governor and the administration.”

“The governor and lieutenant governor have, from the very beginning, been supportive of the CNMI’s PUA program. Neither the governor and lieutenant governor have attempted to influence the process that would put the CNMI Department of Labor to go against the guidelines and requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor. They have not been involved in the determination of who receives benefits and, while both have expressed concern for those in need and urged our department

to expedite the processing of eligible applicants, both have supported our determination to operate this program in a manner consistent with federal law,” Benavente added.

To date, CNMI DOL has received 39,002 applications for PUA and has adjudicated and processed 36,493. A total of 2,509 applications are currently undergoing the process. A total of 26,241 applications were determined ineligible as they did not meet the requirements of the program as provided by the USDOL, or they were determined fraudulent.

“We understand that these individuals are not going to be satisfied, but the eligibility rules we are obligated to follow are set by the USDOL, and

we do not have the authority to dismiss these and, in fact, can be subject to severe repercussions if we fail to adequately administer the program according to these rules,” she said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres acknowledged the challenges CNMI DOL has faced in administering the federal program in accordance with the US-DOL guidelines.

“I truly want to help those who are suffering from the loss of employment because of this pandemic. I am grateful that the CNMI DOL team has distributed aid to thousands of individuals in need but there are many more who are pleading for help. If it were up to me, I would wish to provide aid to anyone that seeks it, but there are requirements placed on

these funds and these requirements must be met to operate this program according to the federal law. That is a serious and necessary consideration and while I will continue to support the faster and more efficient processing of claims and examining the process to identify areas we can work around to adjudicate claims in advance of the submission of particular less-essential information, I cannot pressure the hardworking staff at DOL to do anything that would jeopardize the integrity of the program and the CNMI’s compliance with federal law,” said Torres.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CHCC

From Page 1

money and a plaque.

“To be chosen for this award, nationwide, is an honor and it motivates me to continue working hard for my community,” said Guerrero. “Since becoming a manager in 2015, each day presented a new challenge. Learning from those challenges with the mindset of keeping our patients healthy and alive keeps me going. I am thankful to Kirsten Jensen, who nominated me, and CHCC for entrusting me with the role of nurse manager for our dialysis unit.”

According to ANNA, the award recognizes a qualified ANNA member for managerial excellence in the advancement of nephrology nursing. During her time as a nurse manager, Guerrero built the trust and respect of not only the staff who work directly

with her, but also the respect of physicians, advanced practitioners, and nurses throughout CHCC.

“Nurse managers notoriously work hard in their jobs and Miles is no exception to this,” said Nephrology nurse practitioner Jensen, who nominated Guerrero. “However, I have witnessed that she consistently goes above and beyond anything I have previously seen from a nurse manager, and for that she deserves to be recognized.”

Guerrero not only effectively leads her staff, but also demonstrates to them how to provide excellent patient care and good customer service.

“When Miles took over the position of nurse unit manager for the dialysis unit, she worked hard with her team to provide better service to our dialysis patients,” said chief nursing officer Renea Raho. “She finds ways to improve herself and the unit; she offers ideas and contributes in any

way she can to alleviate the workload, not only in her unit, but also in the whole nursing department. I am happy to work with her.”

Guerrero was key to ensuring patients continued to receive excellent nephrology care remotely when there was no nephrologist on island, while still supporting excellent nursing care of the patients. She continues to work tirelessly to ensure the clinic operates smoothly, while supporting and providing continuing education that helps her staff grow as professionals.

“This is a testament to the caliber of service the dialysis center provides and it is a deserved award,” said CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña. “All of us at CHCC are proud of Miles’ accomplishment.”

Guerrero joins 13 others individuals nationwide, as well as four ANNA chapters, that were selected for the other 2021 awards presented by ANNA. (PR)

CBP

From Page 1

further secures and streamlines international arrivals while fulfilling a longstanding congressional mandate to biometrically record the entry and exit of non-U.S. citizens.

“CBP is excited to expand our Simplified Arrival program, in partnership with CPA, for international travelers arriving to Saipan,” said Richard F. Di Nucci, CBP director of Field Operations in San Francisco. “The combination of skilled CBP officers and the use of advanced biometric technology provides travelers with a secure, efficient, and touchless arrival process and enhances the customer experience.”

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio is excited over the Simplified Arrival program: “The Simplified Arrival program further secures and modernizes air travel at the Saipan International Airport. By streamlining the customer experience, the Saipan International Airport provides a warm welcome to our international tourists and travelers. CPA is deeply appreciative of its collaboration with CBP and looks forward to working with all airport partners to further enhance the CNMI’s travel recovery efforts.”

Simplified Arrival only uses the biometric facial comparison process at a time and place where travelers

are already required by law to verify their identity by presenting a travel document. When travelers arrive at SIA on an international flight, they will pause for a photo at the primary inspection point. CBP’s biometric facial comparison process will compare the new photo of the traveler to a small gallery of high-quality images that the traveler has already provided to the government, such as passport and visa photos. In addition, foreign travelers who have traveled to the U.S. previously may no longer need to provide fingerprints as their identity will be confirmed through the touchless facial comparison process.

Simplified Arrival pairs one of the industry’s highest ranked facial comparison algorithms (as assessed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology) with trained CBP officers who are skilled at verifying the authenticity of travel documents. If a traveler cannot be matched to a photo on record using the Simplified Arrival process, the traveler will proceed through the traditional inspection process consistent with existing requirements for entry into the United States.

U.S. citizens or those foreign travelers who are not required to provide biometrics who wish to opt out of the new biometric process may notify a CBP officer as they approach the primary inspection point. These travelers will be required to present a valid travel document for inspection by a CBP officer and they will

be processed consistent with existing requirements for admission into the United States.

CBP is committed to its privacy obligations and has taken steps to safeguard the privacy of all travelers. CBP has employed strong technical security safeguards and has limited the amount of personally identifiable information used in the facial biometric process. New photos of U.S. citizens will be deleted within 12 hours. Photos of most foreign nationals will be stored in a secure Department of Homeland Security system.

CBP and its air travel partners are expanding the use of facial biometrics through public-private partnerships to not only fulfill the congressional security mandate, but also to further secure and enhance touchless travel wherever identity verification is required for international travel.

Currently, CBP has also implemented biometric facial comparison technology partially or fully at entry into the United States at 172 airports, including preclearance locations, and at exit from the United States at 32 airports. To date, more than 77 million travelers have participated in the biometric facial comparison process at air, land, and seaports of entry. Since September 2018, CBP has leveraged facial biometrics to prevent more than 700 imposters from illegally entering the United States by using genuine travel documents that were issued to other people. (PR)

TARGET

From Page 1

was already “significant,” and was made possible through “the community’s tremendous help to get where we are today.”

Herd immunity refers to a form of indirect disease/infection protection that is achieved when a certain percentage of a population has become immune to an infection either through vaccination or past exposure to an infection/disease, significantly reducing the chances of community spread and allowing those with no immunity to remain healthy without receiving a vaccine shot or being exposed to disease.

CHCC’s goal of 80-85% of the CNMI’s eligible population being fully vaccinated will allow those who cannot receive the COVID-19 vaccine—such as infants or those with

compromised immune systems—to be protected from the virus.

When asked about reaching the goal of 80-85% full vaccination, Muña said “we are confident that we will reach our goal.”

When asked for her overall outlook as to how the CNMI has navigated the COVID-19 pandemic thus far, Muña said it has been several months now since Saipan’s last case of community spread, and the CNMI’s handling of the pandemic was largely made possible through the cooperation and support of the community, “the dedication and performance of our first responders, and the services of our partners.”

On the topic of reopening the CNMI to tourists, Muña said that “slowly opening up is the best approach,” and advised to remain cautious while the CNMI inches toward having 80-85% of eligible individuals fully vaccinated.

FORMER

From Page 1

order to preserve her phone records, lawyer Aaron Halegua said that Cui’s pattern of behavior to obstruct plaintiffs’ effort to preserve her ESI data warrants holding her in contempt.

Back in February, the U.S. District Court for the NMI found Cui in contempt of court in the case filed by seven former IPI construction workers. Prior to that, Cui was found in contempt of court in the suit filed by the U.S. Department of Labor against IPI.

Halegua, who represents the seven workers, said that yesterday marked the third month since the court issued the order compelling Cui to preserve her ESI data yet Cui allegedly still has not fully complied with the order to date.

The report stated that Cui’s cell phone wasn’t shipped out to New York, where Halegua is based, until June 9, 2021.

On top of that, there was an iTunes backup encryption password enabled on the phone that Cui claimed she did not have, resulting in the delay of copying her phone records.

The data was later copied from the device last week, June 24, but based on TransPerfect’s initial review of the phone, Cui’s declaration regarding her ESI data contained several inaccurate or false statements. Halegua said one inaccurate or false statement that Cui made

was in regards to her SIM cards. He said the SIM that was received appeared to have never been used.

“Cui’s declaration states that the SIM card that Cui had been using in Saipan was kept in the ‘old phone’ that was sent to TransPerfect. However, TransPerfect stated that the phone did not have a SIM card inside it. The only SIM card sent to TransPerfect appears to have never been used,” he said.

According to Halegua, the plaintiffs are in the process of investigating other statements made to the court by Cui that they believe to be false.

Back on June 4, the Imperial Pacific International Holdings board of directors announced that Cui had resigned as executive director of the company and ceased to be the chairperson of the board, the chairperson of the executive committee of the board, and the authorized representative of the company.

However, Halegua said Cui’s resignation does not change or modify her obligation to comply with the court’s orders.

Cui is a third-party witness in the lawsuit of the seven construction workers against IPI and its former contractor and subcontractor, MCC International and Gold Mantis Construction Decoration.

On May 24, 2021, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona entered a \$5.9-million default judgment in favor of the plaintiffs against IPI.

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Tasi to Table's Tinian chapter receives rods and reels



Tasi to Table president Gene Weaver, leftmost, and Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, rightmost, flank Tasi to Table Tinian's student members, parents, Tasi to Table directors and advisers, and members of the Tinian Municipal Council at Tinian's Kammer Beach last Saturday. As TTT's four-month pilot programs on Tinian and Rota this year will soon conclude, the organization hopes to start eight-month programs on both islands next school year.

JOSHUA SANTOS

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—Fourteen high schoolers from Tinian Jr./Sr. High School received Daiwa fishing rods, lines, hooks, tackle boxes, and lure-tying handbooks during a presentation event hosted by Tasi to Table last Saturday at Kammer Beach.

Like the gear that was given to TTT's Rota students last weekend, the fishing rods were given to TTT by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, while the tackle boxes, the box's contents, and handbooks were from Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods.

Joining TTT president Gene Weaver and TTT secretary Derik Reyes Jr. as honorary guests at the event were Tinian

Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, Tinian Municipal Council chair Joseph E. Santos, Municipal Council executive director Eric Reyes, other members of the Tinian Municipal Council, and TTT Tinian's advisers.

In his remarks, Eric Reyes, who emceed the event, said it was TTT vice president Wayne Pangelinan who reached out to the Municipal Council and brought up the idea of a TTT chapter on Tinian, inviting Reyes and other members of the council to Saipan "to get a feel of what this program is all about." Reyes said Santos was impressed with what he saw, and worked toward making a TTT Tinian chapter a reality. "[Santos] mobilized myself and other members of the Municipal Council to spearhead

[and] do whatever it took to make this program possible and to communicate with the mayor's office," said Reyes.

In an interview after the event, Weaver was overwhelmed by the positive responses from students, parents, and Tinian leadership, saying he is more than pleased with what TTT was able to accomplish this year.

"This is one of those moments we've been waiting for. It took us a year to get here, but we're here, and the response from the students is overwhelming. These kids come up to me thanking me, showing their appreciation. ...[The] mayor and the municipal council is showing their support for this program and want to continue this pro-

gram for the students because there's nothing like it here," said Weaver.

One of the students, John Paul Merza, who is an incoming junior at Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, said he had some prior fishing experience before participating in TTT's four-month program, but it was through TTT that he learned in-depth aspects of fishing and topics such as boating safety. He was grateful for the fishing

essentials he got last Saturday.

"I'm very thankful. I got so excited when they said that they were going to give out rods, and today's the day. We're [very] thankful, as a group. ... We got to do [many] things. We got to travel to Saipan and experience troll fishing," said Merza.

Tasi to Table seeks to share with the youth the joys of fishing. TTT first began with a six-month program for the

Da'Ok Academy in summer 2019, and started an eight-month program for Saipan's high school students in 2020. TTT launched Tinian and Rota branches this summer, first testing out a four-month pilot program with hopes to begin an eight-month program on both islands next school year. Students who participate and complete TTT's programs earn elective credit hours that go toward high school graduation.

SNILD, Rota Legislative Delegation pass several local bills

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, and the Rota Legislative Delegation passed last week local bills to fund offices and projects, and establish an allowance program for hemodialysis patients, and prohibit certain activities at a park and other areas, during their sessions on Saipan and Rota, respectively.

On Saipan, the delegation passed House Local Bill 22-3, Draft 1 that appropriates up to \$695,177 of the Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the third Senatorial District that has been identified by the Commonwealth Development Authority as available for appropriations.

Authored by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), Local Bill 22-3 appropriates \$535,177 for various road improvements on Industrial Drive; \$125,000 to complete the Kalamendo Waterline Project; \$27,000 to complete the Dotse Pl. Waterline Project; and \$8,000 for water system improvements on Navy Hill Drive.

Blanco said the expenditure authority of the funds shall be the Department of Public Works secretary and the executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The SNILD also passed Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao's (R-Saipan) House Local Bill 22-7, which appropriates \$1,446,000 in revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended (poker fee) for the following:

*\$1.2 million to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, provided, however, that \$250,000 of the amount shall be reserved for SHEFA personnel and operations. The expenditure authority shall be the SHEFA board chairperson in concurrence with the SHEFA board.

*\$246,000 shall be allocated as follows: 1. \$200,000 for the Saipan Mayor's Office, with expenditure authority shall be the mayor or his designee (a) \$100,000 for field operations; (b) \$100,000 for the Saipan street naming project; 2. \$46,000 for the Northern Islands Mayor's Office personnel and operations. The expenditure authority shall be the mayor of the Northern Islands or his designee.

The SNILD at the same time passed Attao's H.L.B. 22-10 that reappropriates \$9,452 in lapsed funds for the operations/personnel of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

The SNILD passed Rep. Roy Ada's (R-Saipan) House Local Bill H.L.B. 22-9 that reappropriates \$2,484 for the installation of two speed bumps on Adobu Drive in Koblerville; and \$3,253 for the installation of street lights at the Koblerville basketball court and youth center.

Meanwhile, the Rota Legislative Delegation also passed with amendments all local bills that appeared on the calendar at the session held at the mayor's conference room on Rota.

Sen. Teresita A. Santos and Rep. Donald Manglona, both independents, are co-chairper-

sons of the Rota Legislative Delegation.

House Local Bill 22-1, authored by Manglona, appropriates \$60,000 from the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation Reserve Account as follows: \$40,000 for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation; and \$20,000 to the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation for the student housing assistance. The expenditure authority shall be the chairman of the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation Board.

House Local Bill 22-2, authored by Manglona, appropriates \$60,000 from the poker licensing fee account for medical subsistence allowance for the Rota hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients. The Finance secretary shall have the expenditure authority.

House Local Bill 22-6, authored by Manglona, appropriates \$21,272 specifically allocated to the First Senatorial District (Rota) under Public Law 18-30, as amended, for interisland medical referral stipend for patients and their escorts.

Senate Local Bill 22-1, authored by Santos, establishes the Medical Subsistence Allowance Program for the Rota hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients.

Senate Local Bill 22-2, authored by Santos, amends the prohibitions of certain activities within the Sabana Heights, Talakhaya and 1 Chenchon Park established under Rota Local Law 9-01.

All approved local bills now go to the governor.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CUC closed on July 5, 2021

In observance of Independence Day, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2021. (PR)

'Pride Talks' at the Legislature on Wednesday

How can the Legislature help create a more inclusive CNMI and promote the equality and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ people? The House Committee on Health and Welfare is hosting the Legislature's first CNMI Pride Talks this Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 9am in the House of Representatives chamber. Pride Talks will include an open forum for public comments as well as a policy roundtable with leaders from LGBTQ+ organizations. To RSVP or for more information, contact the Office of Health and Welfare chair Rep. Christina Sablan at 664-8829 or email navakhorram@gmail.com. The event will be broadcast on Channel 23 and streamed live on the Legislature's Facebook page. (PR)

Water service hours in As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao, Tanapag

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is reminding its customers that the following scheduled water hours are in effect for the As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag areas:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6am to 6pm
- Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday: 24-hours

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i*

Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tāno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its first July monthly virtual meeting on July 1, 2021, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm, on a Zoom link. Call. Kumisión secretary Roland Blas for Zoom link Information, special accommodations and agenda (rblaskumision@gmail.com) at 480-4047. (PR)

Power service interruption on July 2

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption on Friday, July 2, 2021.

■ Outage Time: 9:30am — 10:30am (Estimated)

■ Areas Affected: Chalan Kiya (Chalan Kiya Dr., Amariyu Ln., Betde Pl., Agaga Ln., Kulot Di Rosa Dr., Apu Dr., Attisa Ct., Attilong Ln., Murena Pl., Penta Ln., Tinta Lp., Tinta Ln., Rasu Ln., Kachang Ln., Tumu Ln., Mikulot Dr., Plata Dr., Bwerh Pl., Parapar Pl., Nguus Dr., Chikita Pl., and the Chalan Kiya Mobil Gas Station)

■ Circuit: Kiya 1
■ Water Well Affected: None
■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None
■ Purpose: To temporarily remove I-span of primary lines near the Chalan Kiya Mobil Gas Station to allow CUC's contractor, RNV Construction, to safely operate the heavy equipment being utilized for the W6 Wastewater Lift Station project.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

AmeriCorps teaches its student volunteers life-saving skills

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-one volunteers from different public high schools underwent a two-day training last week at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom on responding to community needs and part of it was learning life-saving skills such as how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation or CPR in cases of emergency.

Men and women from the Department of Fire Emergency and Medical Services served as instructors and gave hands-on training to the volunteers.

“The volunteers are ages 17 years old and above and are members of the AmeriCorps reading tutoring program from all three islands. ...They tutor students in the elementary and middle school levels,” said Victoria S. Nicholas, program director for Public School System’s AmeriCorps program. “Programs like these are



Public School System students undergo CPR training with Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services instructors as part of their work with AmeriCorps.



BEA CABRERA

part of AmeriCorps training. Majority of these students have completed their service as they have already put in 675 hours at the schools and approximately 30 of them re-enrolled for an additional 300 hours and altogether they’re doing 975 hours in less than a year.”

AmeriCorps is a national service program and is funded by federal grants like the Corporation for National and

Community Service, according to Nicholas. “AmeriCorps is a very prestigious brand and a recognized organization across all the United States and U.S. territories. ...The goal is for them to provide reading tutoring services to students of PSS so they serve the students first. They are required to complete their service at 675 hours. Most of these volunteers did 700 hours-plus and

one [did] 900 hours,” she said.

AmeriCorps volunteers get a monthly stipend of \$250 per month, regardless of the number of hours. “At the end of it, they get an experience in educational work that they can use in college. ...These kids are being given the opportunity not just to serve and improve the community but also since AmeriCorps is a nationally recognized program, it opens up opportunities

in college as well as job opportunities,” she added.

DFEMS Commissioner Dennis C. Mendiola said it is quite important for the younger generation to acquire life-saving skills like CPR since they can be the first and primary responders before actual professionals come in. “They can help us get the process started by identifying the issues and they can relate

that through telephone to the responders, so when we get there the assessment is a lot more easy and expedient,” he said. “...We do a lot of outreach and get our primary responders out there to help with training students, adults and try and get everybody educated in CPR.”

Nicholas said the next AmeriCorps reading tutoring program will start accepting new applicants by August or September this year. The program is looking for 60 members in all. They must be 17 years old and above, U.S. citizens, and with a grade-point average of 2.5. “The process is pretty strenuous but it is to make sure that we have students who have the heart of a volunteer and that they are committed and responsible,” she said.

For more information, contact San Nicolas at Victoria.nicolas@cnmipss.org or Elizabeth Aguon at elizabeth.aguon@cnmipss.org.

MCS HONOREES			
Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the 4th Quarter President's List & Honor Roll.			
PRESIDENT'S LIST Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.			
1st Grade Aiden Ray Cepeda Ezekiel Ma'Nu'i Villagomez Jake Hiram Maratita Kaiya Isabel Pangelinan Khoen Alexander Coldeen Torres Prescott Jonathan Cabrera Youngwoo Choi	4th Grade Caleb John Aldan Fatima Joy Dimaun Jaden Shyne Fujihira Jamie Nicole Pereira Jaze Enzo San Nicolas Joey Claude Mostales Kainoa Tenorio Leighton Tomokane-Tenorio Mia Guerrero Trisha Juliana Abuan	Gavril Myles Santiago Jessiana Tenorio Kate Nicole Cabalbag Kayli Ari Salas Leonard Jake Regalado Mikayla Castro Mya Pangelinan Patricia Denielle Lugtu Seunghee Jeon Sophia Tenorio Valerie Anne Estella Victor Nash Santos William Matthew Cano	Francine Monique Albuen Gerald Jr. Deleon Guerrero Jazmyn Phoeme Lopez Jill Anne Marie Mallari Keehara Nielsen Baldazo Kina Dela Cruz Kyla Monique Cabrera Leunyce Regalado Manuel Jacinto Pangelinan Raeka Shereen Lantini Raven-Mae Driver Yurihana Rosa Sasamoto
2nd Grade Aiyana Pangelinan Alesa Ilmova Anah Bellah Guerrero Chloe Jane Militante Clarise Garamonte Friella Huanne Dela Santa Ivan Fernand Fortades Jake Peter Deleon Guerrero Jr. John Damien Sablan Jonathan Zhang Kendra Elise Camacho Kirk Ivan De Perio Logan Propst Neia Dolana Noreyemal Tagabuel Scarlett Shae Salas Sera Guerrero Seungwoo Lee Viane Johanna Magboo Vinae Jaydene Pua Vince Angelo Estella Zayne Reyes	5th Grade Aya Santos Cassidee Jolina Flores Cecilia R. Villagomez Ciana Lei Demapan Cyril Michael Pangilinan Do Geon Kim Isabella Soledad Demapan Jadine Nicole Pangelinan Janessa Francine Arriola Katherine Hwang Kimason Cabrera Layla Carmen Ann Palacios Remieggem Melchor Siwoo Lee Tanner Larel McClure	8th Grade Alvin Hong Ari James Toskas Audrein Jennifer Mallari Hitomi Rosa Sasamoto Irene Kim Irie Kane Camacho Jada Chang Jaeyun Jung Jamie Lee Jay Francis Dominic Pineda Jee Woo Son Kaelli Pathil Kelly Zheng Laizha Vianca Mallari Latisha Anne De Jesus Lyssa Rae Steele Malina Rose Tenorio Princes Amanda Habal Tricia Antonnette Palacios Vayden Matagolai	11th Grade Aleia Santos Ariel Morales Christian Guerrero Fiona Marielle Bucalig Hannah Lacap Jeffrey Sheu Jeremiah Jerome Diaz Jihwan Ryu Joshua Donovan Tenorio JunBeom Kim Kaia Travilla Kiana Lei Propst Larry Dean Cruz Lyndon Digno Monique Laura Duenas Raesyl Gerard Solis Regina Huerto Richard Jesus Villagomez Robin Kyle Alvarez Theresa Rose Schweiger Vaughn Andrei Mallari Victoria Ancheta William Nathaniel Ano Yu Jeong Son
3rd Grade Adelle Jane Kautz Amber Faith Militante Ava Carmina Sablan Avah Mae Delacruz Cali Jade Cabrera Chloe Anne Marie Matsunaga Daniel Kang Ezaela Patrice Camacho Heaven Agnes Deleon Guerrero Hyunseo Yun Jeongwoo Choi Ji Woo Lee Karl Angelo Diaz Kathleen Cano Kennani Vinae Villagomez Ki Eun Lee Lydia Xian Miana Dolores Delacruz Mikayla Guerrero Paige Kanae Cabrera Von Derick Lauron	6th Grade Akoni Jesus Matsumoto Chan Seo Yeom Chan Woong Yeom Christine Rosanne Castro Christopher James Dela Cruz Enzo Umeki Sasamoto Hiromi Rosa Sasamoto Hope McQuay Iris Maleia Rasa Jeffrey Concepcion Jose Clarence Tenorio Juliana Magan Subang Justin Mallari Kaden Christian Propst Kaitlyn Alexza Drilon Ki Won Lee Matthew Guerrero Maya Jae Jung Maya McQuay Naomi Skye Matsumoto Nicole Angela Pangilinan Sage R. Villagomez Sarah Angela Melchor Serenity Anne Fujihira Stephanie Joyce Sevilla Taher Shakir Wayne Dominic Ano	9th Grade Arman Kaito Rechucher Brandon Lee Breanna Sue Mafnas Camille Alannah Sablan Devin Jordan Propst Earle Gabreil San Nicolas Gwen Tiffany Gamab Jazmin Jay Tagabuel Jeery Chen Jonathan Sheu Juliana Vergara Kriselle Bryana Mitzy Drilon Leyonne Alfred Tolentino Maria Yoshie Torres Mark Jainier Chavez Natalie Gabrielle Ano Palikkun George Paul Angelo Santos Paul William Camacho II Ruben Guerrero Sanghyeok Lee Tian Si Xu Tiana Torres Tyana Kisha Tesiro Xin Wen Jin	12th Grade Brandee Hunter Brian Youn Carmille Perez Christian Dean Palattao Connie Zhu Hwan Hee (Shaina) Lee James Patrick San Nicolas John Isaac San Nicolas Katherine Avendano-Woodruff Kevin Kang Kyle Attao Lina Lee Mikee Mame Mendoza Nathanael Ryne Cunanan Penelope Sablan Puti'on Palacios-Camacho Raymalyn Guanlao Reuben Christian Tomboc Seungwoo (Raffy) Lee Sinahi Ray Cepeda Skyler Poon Trinity Cruz Victoria Nicole Santos Vince Philip Salvador Xavier Gatmaitan
HONOR ROLL			
Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.			
1st Grade Aiesha Sadie Camacho Aleaya Bermudes Carina Guerrero Chloe Nicole Arnold Crystin Pangelinan Felix Ryan Tomokane Gabriella Jo Tenorio Gino Marvin Deleon Guerrero Jamara Jayde Cabrera-Sablan Naomi Elizabeth Benjamin Sinako Annette Leiyangscheng Tagabuel Yuna Yu Zane Fujihira	6th Grade Carly Kate Dela Cruz Ethan Jayce Tomokane Frank Anthony Reyes Jupri Torres Kesil Camacho Maria Loreen Esguerra Patricia Matsumoto Patrick Guerrero Seungwoo Choi Yukiko Kiyomi Sasamoto	9th Grade Alicia Barcinas Angel Li Ashley Jo Sablan Avah Marie Torres Charles Pablo Cepeda Daniel Ju Elisa Ellen Blanco Ethan Jude Militante Ierlyma Nicole Deleon Guerrero Irish Castro Jhazmyn Nhicole Valiente Kevin Zheng Krissey Rease Cepeda L'Wina Atalig Leo Bang Marini Millo Miguel Nathan Bartolata Minki Jung Sarawut Sukanpong Seong Uk Choi Sophia Camacho Tian Jiao Xu Ye Jin Ha	Zhen Ni Huang
2nd Grade Alana Lei Macaranas Aliyani Basa Avril Hershey Dimaculangan Brayden Luke Repata Ian James De Leon Joseph Francisco White Madden Anthony Deleon Guererro Okamura Jaxon Itisoorschigh Oliveeah Julie Kaipat Qoheleth Thomas Blas Soli Maratita Tone Yoshise Yu Ma Zion James Ulloa	7th Grade Ainsley Ancheta Alexandria Dysangco Andrick Poon Annieskha Arreza Anthony Christian Rivera Eloy Deleon Guerrero Heleyna Frielle Dela Santa Jasmine Meleana Deleon Guerrero Jieun Kwon Joseph Brandon Pangelinan Kern Han Lance Jericho Javier Luis Manibusan Meagan Camacho Michael Mercado Jr Mikaehla Paige Mendoza Nyla Deleon Guerrero Oscar Bien Buenaflor Quince Emanuele Tizon Raina Park Tellei Hiroya Rechucher Therese Joy Ogo Zion Jude Cabrera	10th Grade Aubriana Maria Sablan Carlo Crisdeo Diaz Da Hyun Shim Derek Moritaro Sasamoto Dohyun Lim Erin Frink Iver Jude Dimaun Jose Mafnas Kayannie Ilfighar Peter Kristan Rose Torres Leopoldo Naraja Mathew Adrian Sablan Moeisha Eleanor Cruz Seungchan Oh Sierra Rose Reyes Vidal Jose Camacho William Xue	
3rd Grade Aiyah Elise Igitol Chloe Cepeda Francisco Joseph Cruz Franko Ray Tudela Jayda Milan Torres Jeremy Terlaje Jianni Damon Abigania Krish Devjani Mechaet Masaki Rechucher Reef Cole Reyes Talina Aguon-McClure Victoria Eve Terlaje Ye Lei (Bruce) Song	8th Grade Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez Arturo Rodrigo Travilla Aryana Carmen Taimanao Breana Ysabel Patawaran Chelsy Anne Reyes Claire Regina Kautz Dylan Santos Earl Pete Jacob Lacandazo Kimberly Villegas Maili Peter Manuel Pamintuan Mia Ysabela Abuan Nicole Erin Mariano Quimari Liwerscheng Duenas Ranier Joy Solis Sihyeon Choi Yufei Wu Yunseong Seol	11th Grade Chelsea Olouachel Christopher Adam Mafnas Cory Lee David Li Gayle Noreen Vidal Ha'ani Seman Hyunjun Kim Hyunkyu Park Jimin Kwon Karvin Fernando Kwonjoon Ha Richard Ramon Steele Saji Pandey Vidal Jose Sablan	
4th Grade Angelo Li Bentley James Albuen Caydince Raine Masga Hyun Woo Cho Leonmar Jaedon Regalado Logan Matsumoto Maria Guerrero Miguel Garret Mendoza O-Ren Fumiyo Sasamoto Payton Thomas Pangelinan Zian Michael Obnimaga		12th Grade Bernard Angelo Marcelo Gia Hemley Jieyu Lin Kadie Verlyn Aldan	

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 127Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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EDITORIAL

Rudy awakening: Giuliani gets the punishment he deserves

Words have consequences, especially for attorneys—like one Rudy Giuliani, who before Thursday had been licensed to practice law in New York since this very day in 1969. With that privilege came the responsibility to abide by the rules of professional conduct, which above all else requires truthfulness, especially in formal legal proceedings.

Rudy knew the rules, and he broke them again and again, spouting lies about the November election. Nor is this some case of broken windows ethical policing; the calumnies were as big as they come, about a subject as consequential as they come.

As the five-justice appellate panel found:

He “repeatedly stated that in Pennsylvania, more absentee ballots came in during the election than were sent out before the election.” Totally false.

Appearing in federal court, Giuliani agreed with opposing counsel and co-counsel that he was alleging fraud. Later in the same proceeding, he claimed his complaint “doesn’t plead fraud.”

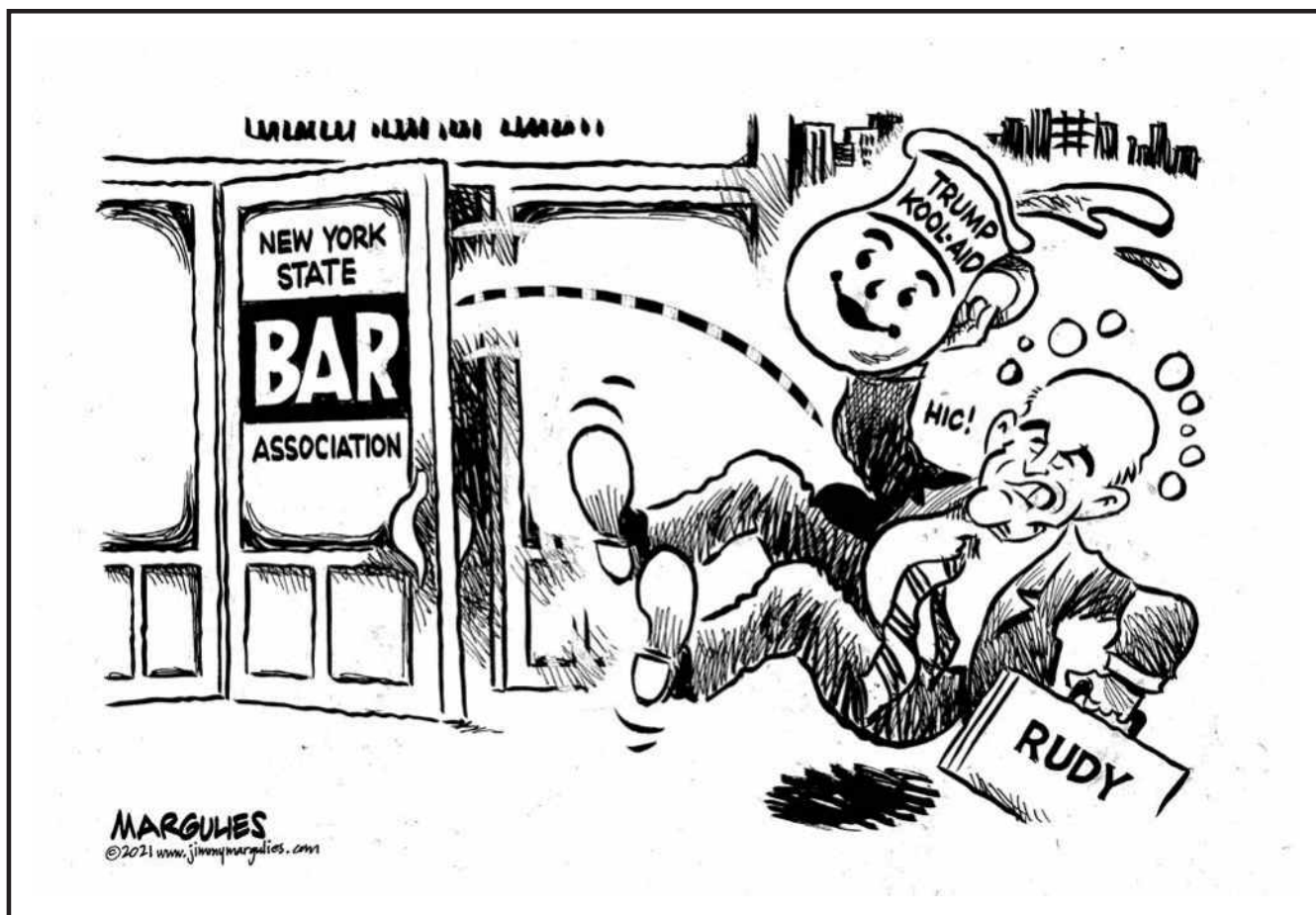
Giuliani repeatedly said dead people “voted” in Philadelphia, citing specific numbers between 8,021 and 30,000. All willful distortions.

At various times, Giuliani claimed tens of thousands of underage voters voted in Georgia. Wrote the court: “The Georgia Office of the Secretary of State undertook an investigation of this claim...The audit revealed that there were zero (0) underage voters in the 2020 election.”

As the justices conclude: “False statements intended to foment a loss of confidence in our elections and resulting loss of confidence in government generally damage the proper functioning of a free society. When those false statements are made by an attorney, it also erodes the public’s confidence in the integrity of attorneys admitted to our bar and damages the profession’s role as a crucial source of reliable information. It tarnishes the reputation of the entire legal profession and its mandate to act as a trusted and essential part of the machinery of justice.”

Years ago, Giuliani told Oprah Winfrey, “I’ve always tried to be honest when communicating with people.” That man is dead and buried.

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Individualism makes us altruistic and happy

By ANDREAS KLUTH
Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. He was previously editor in chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist. He's the author of Hannibal and Me.



Individualism is good, collectivism is bad. That's what I first concluded as a teenager after reading Friedrich Hayek's seminal treatise, “The Road to Serfdom.” Every life experience since then has confirmed my hunch. That makes it all the more irritating when opponents of individualism, out of ignorance or bad faith, keep distorting what it is.

A particularly misleading charge is that individualism should somehow be tantamount to selfishness and egoism. Individualists think only of themselves, this narrative goes, whereas people in collectivist societies take care of their group.

The opposite is closer to the truth. That's the conclusion of forthcoming research by four psychologists—Shawn Rhoads, Rebecca Ryan, and Abigail Marsh at Georgetown University and Devon Gunter at Harvard.

They did an impressive data dive, in which they painted what amounts to a psycho-cultural atlas of the world. One thing they measured was not only objective well-being in different countries, such as wealth and health, but also people's subjective perception that they're flourishing or thriving.

They also mapped the world according to six cultural markers defined by the late Dutch social scientist Geert Hofstede. Some countries value power hierarchies more than others. Some, in the lingo, are more “masculine”—prizing achievement and heroism, say—while others treasure consensus and cooperation. Some cultures are more comfortable with uncertainty and ambiguity, others less so. Some emphasize the long term, others the short term. Some cherish restraint, others embrace indulgence.

And then there's individualism. It marks cultures that value people's autonomy in making personal choices and seeking fulfillment and self-expression. In contrast, collectivist societies extol subordinating personal autonomy to the needs of the group and one's own place in it.

The authors also investigated altruism. They mined data on everything from volunteer work and random acts of kindness to charitable giving, donations of blood, kidneys or bone marrow, and even the humane treatment of animals.

One relationship jumped out from all this number crunching: Individualism, subjective well-being and altruism are intimately linked, as these maps show. By contrast, countries with collectivist cultures, such as China or Ukraine, tend to rank low on altruism.

It's an open question whether these are just correlations, or whether causation is at work, and in which direction. But according to Marsh, one of the authors, it appears that individualism makes people thrive, which in turn makes them more altruistic, which makes them feel even better about themselves, and so on in a virtuous cycle.

As a Hayekian, I find this reassuring more than surprising. The collectivist priority given to the group is really a form of discrimination in favor of insiders, whether defined by genetic

or ideological kinship, and against outsiders, including strangers. Collectivist “solidarity” is thus neither totally voluntary nor inclusive, and “harmony” tends to be coerced and parochial. It stops at class in communism, at tribe or nation in fascism, at sect in religious fundamentalism.

By contrast, the individualist emphasis on personal autonomy and freedom may loosen the social bonds of kinship but also opens the mind toward people outside our in-group, including total strangers. In that sense, individualism rhymes with cosmopolitanism. I imagine that the Good Samaritan in Jesus' parable was an individualist—and felt happy after helping.

But why are some cultures more individualistic than others? Economic development certainly seems to help. The more prosperous and safe you are, the less you need to rely on your immediate in-group just to survive, and the more you can pursue independent goals and experiment with new acquaintances. And yet economics can provide only part of the answer, since countries like Japan have grown rich without becoming individualistic.

A more ambitious explanation goes all the way back to the Middle Ages. Very early on and for entirely unrelated motivations, the Catholic Church discouraged old traditions like cousin marriage and polygamy. Cumulatively, and long before the Protestant Reformation, these policies weakened kinship institutions and encouraged the spread of nuclear families.

This forced Western Europeans to look beyond their in-groups and find other affiliations, including individual definitions of identity. Modernity—and institutions from English common law to market economics—only turbo-charged the trend. That would explain why individualism, and thus altruism, is not unique to, but much more prevalent in “the West,” which in this context means cultures that historically originated in lands with a Catholic heritage, even if they are predominantly Protestant or secular today.

All this should be uplifting. The origins of individualism may have been Western, but its future appears to be global, because it is spreading almost everywhere. With luck, this will lead ever more people on our planet out of serfdom, making them more open-minded and generous toward others, not to mention happier and free.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

China leapfrogs US on defense spending

Joe Biden isn't known for his austerity, except when it comes to the nation's defense.

As part of his welcome emphasis on competition with China, the president cajoled reluctant European countries at the G-7 summit into releasing a statement critical of China, on top of the announcement of an infrastructure program meant to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.

That's all fine as far as it goes, but a glaring omission from Biden's campaign is a defense budget that reflects the growing challenge from Beijing.

Indeed, Biden justifies almost any increased domestic spending as designed to check China's ambitions, at the same time he neglects what is most needful to keep China from dominating its region and waging war on our allies or perhaps the U.S. itself.

If we can deter China from taking Taiwan with subsidies for electric cars, Biden is inarguably the Churchill of his time.

If we can counter China's defense buildup with more funding for affordable housing, Biden deserves to take his place beside Alfred Thayer Mahan or George Kennan as great strategic thinkers.

Otherwise, his approach is lacking, and disturbingly so.

Biden's infrastructure plan, a sprawling proposal that would spend \$2.3 trillion on everything from roads and bridges to affordable housing and elder care, is about the "global competition with China," the president insists.

By Biden's way of thinking, whatever progressives have wanted to do for years is suddenly a priority in the new Cold War. The

left-wing "explainer" website Vox now claims, "Improving domestic infrastructure and investing in new and emerging technologies, especially clean energy technology, is the best way the U.S. can challenge China for supremacy on the world stage." The publication quoted a Democratic congressional aide, "The best way to enact a progressive agenda is to use China [as a] threat."

There are indeed areas of advanced technology that we need to invest in, especially semi-conductors and artificial intelligence (a \$250 billion Senate bill passed last week is an imperfect step in this direction), but it's not true that we can simply windmill our way to victory over China.

Although you might miss it listening to Biden, there are threats from China that don't involve infrastructure spending or clean energy initiatives.

China has been growing its annual defense spending by more than 6% a year.

It has now surpassed the U.S. and technically has the largest navy in the world.

It is on pace to double its nuclear weapons over the next decade. It has flown hundreds of sorties near Taiwan this year, and a top U.S. admiral warns that it could invade in the next six years.

Given all that, one might expect the openhanded Biden to invest substantially in a stronger, more advanced U.S. military, but his profligacy doesn't extend so far. He increased defense budget spending by about 2%, which won't even keep up with inflation.

This doesn't come close to what we realistically need. Chair-

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

man of the Joint Chiefs Mark Milley said at a U.S. Naval Institute event late last year, "We're going to have to have a much larger fleet than we have today, if we're serious about great power competition and deterring great power war." He called for a 3-5% increase in the budget every year but didn't think that was plausible because of fiscal constraints (little did he know, the \$6 trillion blowout to come in every other area of the budget).

We should be spending more on defense, and spending differently. With an eye to deterring conflict with China, we need to recalibrate in a serious way to focus on advanced technologies and weapons systems for the Navy and Air Force, and in space. Hypersonics, directed energy, and control of the electromagnetic spectrum should be particular priorities.

Biden has no excuse for not pursuing this. It's not as though he can say we can't afford it.

Delta variant adds urgency to nations' COVID response

Over the weekend, Sydney was put under a mandatory stay-at-home order for two weeks in response to the risk posed by the Delta variant of COVID-19.

This came as a surprise to many, especially those who rightly view Australia as having been among the best in managing COVID-19, with its very low infections, hospitalizations and deaths.

Australia was not the only recent COVID-19 surprise in advanced countries. Israel, long a vaccination leader, reimposed an indoor-mask requirement last Friday. Once again, the catalyst was the Delta variant.

Then there was the U.K., which, other than India, has been battling longest against Delta. According to government reports, the number of Delta infections rose 46% in just one week. Indeed, whether it is the evidence from there or the reactions of Australia and Israel, four issues should be front and center for many more countries, including the U.S., which need to realize that new COVID-19 risks are likely and do not respect borders.

The ability of the Delta variant to spread fast and deep has surprised many. It is the most infectious variant so far, especially among the nonvaccinated segments of the population. But it also hits the vaccinated, including the doubled-jabbed who, according to U.K. data, made up as much as 20% of those infected with Delta.

Fortunately, the health consequences of the Delta variant in advanced countries appear less severe so far. This is due in part to a better understanding of COVID-19 some 18 months into the pandemic. But most important is vaccination: While it has not totally broken the link between infections on the one hand and hospitalizations and deaths on the other, it has significantly weakened it. So far, a lot fewer of those testing positive have

ended up in hospital or worse because they were vaccinated. Uncertainty remains, however, about the risks of "long COVID" effects.

Government policy reactions have varied significantly, and not just because of different vaccination rates. Important behavioral judgments appear to be in play as well as issues about policy acceptance and effectiveness.

Sydney, with a relatively low vaccination rate, took strong measures despite a very low absolute number of infections. Israel and the U.K. have high vaccination rates but have differed in their reactions, with Israel tightening guidelines but the U.K. maintaining its reopening narrative. (England did delay by a month the final stage of the reopening road map, with similar actions by Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales; importantly, it has also stepped up in the already-impressive vaccination effort there, with pop-up vaccination centers that don't require a reservation appearing nationwide.)

As of now, the incremental economic damage associated with the Delta variant in advanced countries appears limited, especially when compared with India, where it originated and has been causing widespread human tragedies.

Though there are recent examples around the world of significant disruptions because of new waves of COVID-19 (Bangladesh being this weekend's most striking example), there is little to suggest as of now that Delta in itself is particularly damaging economically and financially in the advanced world. While it is still early when it comes to the potential global spread, and it will spread unfortunately, many countries have become much better at managing through these waves.

No matter how the four factors evolve, it is hard to deny two general but important conclusions.

First, Delta is yet another illustration that the terrible CO-

By MOHAMED A. EL-ERIAN
Bloomberg Opinion



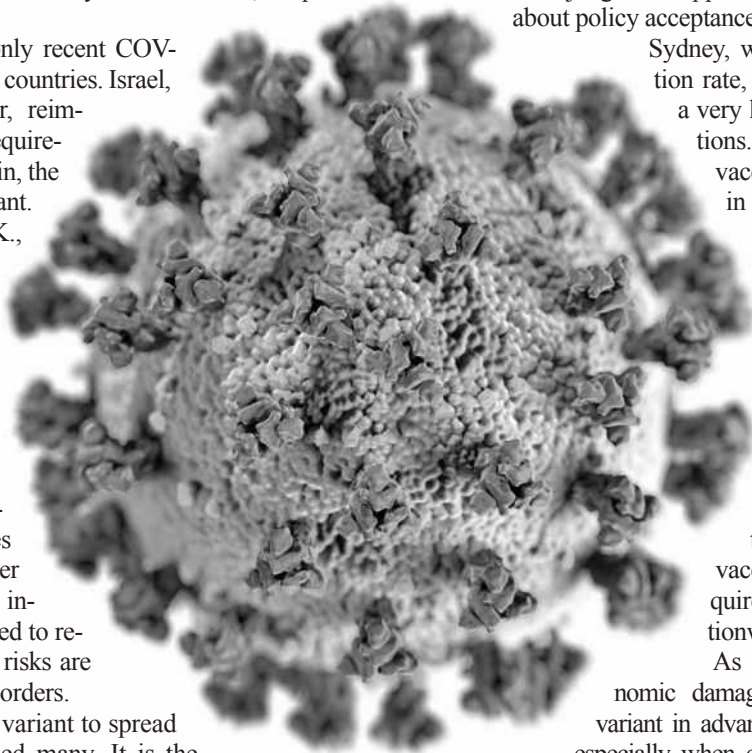
Mohamed A. El-Erian is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is president of Queens' College, Cambridge; chief economic adviser at Allianz SE, the parent company of Pimco where he served as CEO and co-CIO; and chair of Gramercy Fund Management. His books include The Only Game in Town and When Markets Collide.

VID-19 pandemic will not end suddenly. Instead, the world will need to continue to adapt to the reality of living with an endemic for a while—that is, a virus that is proving hard to fully eradicate. With improved private and public health practices and guidelines, living in this age of an endemic virus can be a lot less threatening to lives and livelihoods.

Governments must reinforce their efforts to win all three races in this historical pushback against COVID-19. Winning just one or two is simply not sufficient. Specifically, victory is needed in crushing infections, minimizing variants and accelerating full vaccination. It is not just a government responsibility, as important as this is. It also places an important obligation on individuals to adhere consistently and fully to what the U.K. government has labeled "hand, face, space" health practices.

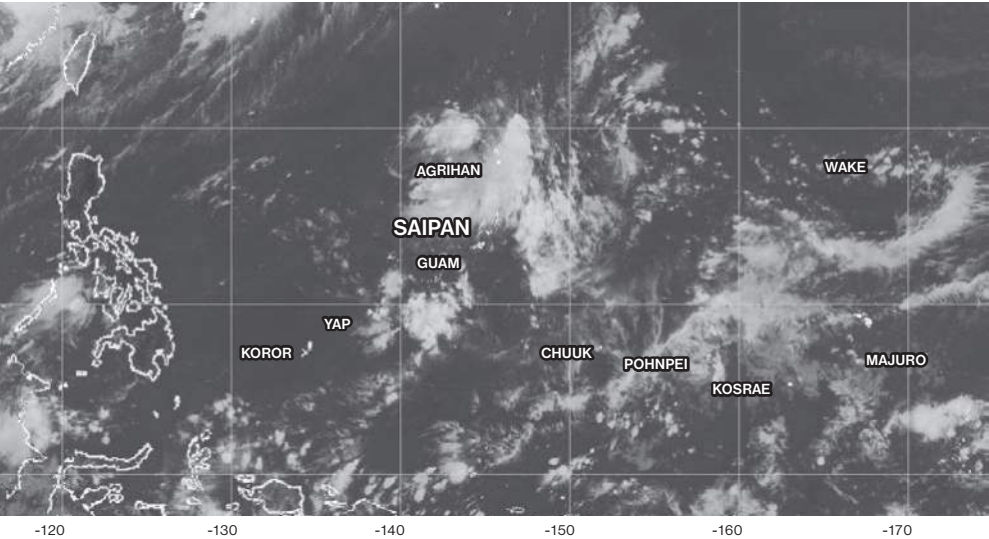
Second, there is no sure way for one country to protect itself from COVID-19 threats coming from outside. Think of this weekend's Sydney news. Along with New Zealand, Australia has taken the most restrictive approach to cross-border human interactions among the advanced economies, imposing quite a range of inconveniences on citizens. It has enforced strict limits on inward and outward travel, subjected those traveling to Australia to quotas, as well as harsh quarantine rules and practices, and has a population that has been impressively understanding, supportive and compliant. Yet Sydney was again shut down, and not as a quick circuit breaker but for a longer period.

The only way to ensure well-being is to go back to the mantra that "no one is safe until everyone is safe." Further vigilance in advanced countries needs to be accompanied with greater assistance to poorer and less-well-organized countries to improve everyone's durable protection against COVID-19.



The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
88°	78°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:48 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies and widely scattered showers plus a few thunderstorms within the Marianas Waters. The upper-level low producing these is to our northeast so we can expect an increase later. The buoys reveal combined seas of 2 to 4 feet composed of an east-northeast trade-wind swell and a west-northwest swell from the former Typhoon Champi.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:59 AM	10:56 PM
Wednesday	-	10:52 AM	11:35 PM
Thursday	-	11:42 AM	-
Friday	12:11 AM	12:30 PM	-
Saturday	12:46 AM	1:17 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	82° / 73°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 61°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 63°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	57° / 43°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 81°	
New York	Sunny	80° / 66°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	81° / 73°	
Rome	Sunny	93° / 68°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	92° / 73°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 55°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 75°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	81° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:01 AM	High Tide	2.09	
5:41 AM	Low Tide	1.36	
10:03 AM	High Tide	1.90	
5:30 PM	Low Tide	0.03	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021				
SAIPAN TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1202 8:00 8:15 Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1203 9:00 9:15 Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204 10:00 10:15 Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1205 11:00 11:15 Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1208 14:00 14:15 Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1209 15:00 15:15 Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1210 16:00 16:15 Daily
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	1211 17:00 17:15 Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
GUAM TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	

Business

Drought woes in dry US West raise July 4 fireworks fears

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Many Americans aching for normalcy as pandemic restrictions end are looking forward to traditional Fourth of July fireworks. But with a historic drought in the U.S. West and fears of another devastating wildfire season, officials are canceling displays, passing bans on setting off fireworks or begging for caution.

Fireworks already have caused a few small wildfires, including one started by a child in northern Utah and another in central California. Last year, a pyrotechnic device designed for a baby's gender reveal celebration sparked a California blaze that killed a firefighter during a U.S. wildfire season that scorched the second-highest amount of land in nearly 40 years.

Some regions of the American West are experiencing their worst drought conditions in more than a century this year, said Jennifer Balch, director of Earth Lab at the University of Colorado. People setting off fireworks at home is a concern because of both the tinder-box conditions ripe for starting wildfires and the



A burnt hillside caused by fireworks is shown Tuesday, June 22, 2021, in Provo, Utah.

threat of injuries. Last year, injuries spiked to their highest level in 15 years after the pandemic canceled large gatherings, federal data shows.

"As a fire scientist, I'm

bracing myself for this fire season because of how dry and hot it is already," Balch said. "I think fireworks right now are a terrible idea."

Fireworks industry profes-

sionals, who also stressed caution in drought-prone areas, expect strong sales despite a shortage caused by pandemic-related manufacturing slowdowns and trade disruptions.

"We think we're going to have a tremendous year," said James Fuller, a fireworks safety expert with Alabama-based TNT Fireworks.

While fireworks are integral to the country's Independence Day celebrations, they ignite thousands of fires a year—including one that burned Bobbie Uno's home in Clearfield, Utah, on the holiday last year. She had to jump out of the way before it struck the side of her house.

"Within five seconds, my house, from the bushes to the rooftop, it was burning," Uno said. The blaze caused \$60,000 in damage and forced her fam-

ily out of their home for weeks. "I want everyone to be

aware of the danger, because it's scary even in a small cul-de-sac," Uno said.

Several Utah cities are banning people from setting off their own fireworks this year during the record drought, but many Republicans are against a statewide prohibition. GOP Salt Lake County Councilwoman Aimee Winder Newton supports restrictions but thinks this year is a bad time for a blanket ban.

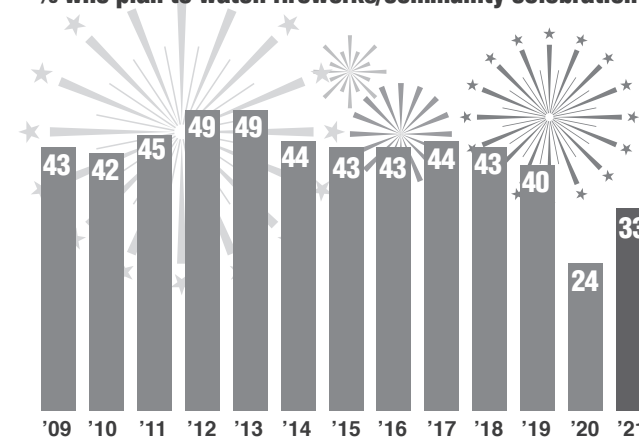
"We're just coming out of this pandemic where people already felt like government was restricting them in so many ways," she said. "When you issue bans arbitrarily, we could have a situation where people who weren't going to light fireworks purposely go and buy fireworks to just send a message to government."

State fireworks laws vary considerably across the U.S., but local bans on personal fireworks are popping up from Montana to Oregon, which was stricken by massive wildfires last year.

Plans to celebrate climb

As vaccinations continue to roll out across the country and restrictions on gatherings are lifted, consumers are looking forward to watching fireworks and joining community celebrations.

% who plan to watch fireworks/community celebration



Source: NRF
Graphic: Staff, TNS

As passengers return to air travel, bad behavior skyrockets

Air travel can be difficult in the best of times, with cramped planes, screaming babies, flight delays and short tempers.

Throw in a pandemic, and the anxiety level can rise quickly.

That has led to confrontations with flight attendants and other unruly behavior, including occasional fights that get captured and replayed endlessly on social media.

Airlines have reported about 3,000 cases of disruptive passengers since Jan. 1, according to a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, which began tracking it this year. About 2,300 of those incidents involved passengers who refused to obey the federal requirement to wear a face mask.

Over the past decade, the FAA investigated about 140 cases a year for possible enforcement actions such as fines. This year, it was nearly 400 by late May.

Things have gotten so bad that the airlines and unions for flight attendants and pilots sent a letter to the U.S. Justice Department on Monday urging "that more be done to deter egregious behavior."

"The federal government should send a strong and consistent message through criminal enforcement that compliance with federal law and upholding aviation safety are of paramount importance," the letter said, noting that the law calls for up to 20 years imprisonment for passengers who intimidate or interfere with crew members.

Trade group Airlines for America sent a separate letter to the Federal Aviation Administration acknowledging that the "vast majority of passengers" comply with the rules but "unfortunately, we continue to see onboard behavior deteriorating into heinous acts, including assaults, threats and intimidation of crewmembers that directly interfere with the performance of crewmember duties and jeopardize the safety and security of everyone onboard the aircraft."

South Africa tightens restrictions to fight resurgent virus

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Battling a fast-increasing surge of COVID-19 cases, South Africa has reintroduced tough restrictions including a ban on alcohol sales and an extended nightly curfew.

The delta variant, first discovered in India, appears to be driving South Africa's new increase, President Cyril Ramaphosa said Sunday night, announcing the return to strict measures.

South Africa recorded more than 15,000 new cases Sunday, including 122 deaths, bringing its total fatalities to near 60,000.

Gauteng, the country's most populous province which includes the largest city Johannesburg and the capital Pretoria, has the brunt of the current

surge, accounting for about 66% of new infections.

Health authorities are concerned that the country's eight other provinces are likely to soon see spikes in cases to match those in Gauteng, where hospitals are running short of COVID-19 beds and patients are being taken to health facilities in other provinces.

Neighboring Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique are also fighting growing numbers of cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

"A third wave is gathering in strength and force," Ramaphosa said in an address broadcast nationally in which he said all public gatherings would be banned for two weeks, except for funerals

which can only be attended by 50 people.

"Once again, we find ourselves at a defining moment in our fight against this disease," he said, urging all to continue wearing masks and keeping a distance from others.

"Let us call on every bit of strength we have, let us summon our reserves of courage, and hold firm until this wave, too, passes over us," a somber Ramaphosa said. "We have climbed many hills before, and we will climb this one, too."

South Africa's vaccination rate is slowly picking up speed. By Sunday, 2.7 million people had received a least one jab. More than 950,000 of South Africa's 1.25 million health care workers have been

vaccinated, said Ramaphosa.

Deliveries of the Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer vaccines are increasing, he said. South Africa aims to vaccinate 67% of its 60 million people by February 2022.

As a new surge of the disease sweeps across Africa's 54 countries, about 1% of the continent's 1.3 billion people have received at least one vaccine dose, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

South Africa's rampant corruption has also become a factor as the health minister has stepped down because of reports his family members benefitted from inflated payments on contracts related to COVID-19.

Average US gas price rises to \$3.15/gallon

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline rose 2 cents over the past two weeks to \$3.15 per gallon.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that the uptick is about one-third of the amount that crude oil prices rose over the same timeframe. A similar rise is likely to occur in the coming days, and additional price hikes in the future may

be larger as wholesale prices increase and some states' fuel taxes grow beginning July 1.

Nationwide, the highest average price for regular-grade gas is in the San Francisco Bay Area at \$4.33 per gallon. The lowest average is in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at \$2.63 per gallon.

The average price of diesel in the survey taken Friday was \$3.27 a gallon, up 2 cents from two weeks earlier.

Nation

Rescuers stay hopeful about finding more survivors in rubble

SURFSIDE, Fla. (AP)—Rescue workers digging feverishly for a fifth day Monday stressed that they could still find survivors in the rubble of a collapsed Florida condo building, a hope family members clung to even though no one has been pulled out alive since the first day the structure fell.

The death toll rose by just four people Sunday, to a total of nine confirmed dead. But more than 150 people are still missing in Surfside.

Families of the missing rode buses to a site nearby from which they could watch teams at work Sunday: firefighters, sniffer dogs and search experts employing radar and sonar devices.

U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz said at a Sunday evening news conference that she had met with some of the rescue workers and was able to “hear the hope that they have.”

“We obviously have some realism that we’re dealing with. But ... as long as the experts that we trust are telling me they have hope to find people who might have been able to survive, then we have to make sure that we hold on to that hope,” she said.

Israeli Diaspora Affairs Minister Nachman Shai, head of a humanitarian delega-



Crews work in the rubble at the Champlain Towers South Condo, Sunday, June 27, 2021, in Surfside, Fla. Many people were still unaccounted for after Thursday's fatal collapse.

tion from Israel that includes several search-and-rescue experts, said the professionals have told him of cases where survivors were found after 100 hours or more.

“So don’t lose hope, that’s what I would say,” he said.

Some families had hoped their visit to the site near the 12-story building would allow them to shout messages

to loved ones possibly buried deep inside the pile. As they returned to a nearby hotel, several paused to embrace as they got off the bus. Others walked slowly with arms around each other back to the hotel entrance.

“We are just waiting for answers. That’s what we want,” said Dianne Ohayon, whose parents, Myriam and Arnie

Notkin, were in the building. “It’s hard to go through these long days and we haven’t gotten any answers yet.”

Authorities on Sunday identified the additional four people that had been recovered as Leon Oliwkowicz, 80; Christina Beatriz Elvira, 74; Anna Ortiz, 46; and Luis Bermudez, 26. The number of people left unaccounted for was 152, said

Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. The last live person rescued was on Thursday, just hours after the collapse.

Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah explained that conditions at the site—the building pancaked when it fell—have frustrated crews looking for survivors. Alan Cominsky, chief of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

Department, said his team is holding out hope of finding someone alive, but must continue to move slowly and methodically.

“The debris field is scattered throughout, and it’s compact, extremely compact,” he said, noting that teams must stabilize and shore up debris as they go.

“We can’t just go in and move things erratically, because that’s going to have the worst outcome possible,” he said.

Among the tools rescuers used was a microwave radar device developed by NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab and the Department of Homeland Security that “sees” through up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of solid concrete, according to Adrian Garulay, CEO of Spec Ops Group, which sells them. The suitcase-size device can detect human respiration and heartbeats and was being deployed Sunday by a seven-member search-and-rescue team from Mexico’s Jewish community.

Levine Cava said six to eight teams are actively searching the pile at any given time, with hundreds of team members on standby ready to rotate in. She said teams have worked around the clock since Thursday, and there was no lack of personnel.

Unprecedented: Northwest heat wave builds, records fall

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Intense. Prolonged. Record-breaking. Unprecedented. Abnormal. Dangerous.

That’s how the National Weather Service described the historic heat wave hitting the Pacific Northwest, pushing daytime temperatures into the triple digits, disrupting Olympic qualifying events and breaking all-time high temperature records in places unaccustomed to such extreme heat.

Portland, Oregon, reached 112 degrees Fahrenheit (44.4 Celsius) Sunday, breaking the all-time temperature record of 108 F (42.2C), which was set just a day earlier.

In Eugene, Oregon, the U.S. track and field trials were halted Sunday afternoon and fans were asked to evacuate the stadium due to extreme heat. The National Weather Service said it hit 110 F (43.3 C) in Eugene, breaking the all-time record of 108 F (42.2 C).

Oregon’s Capital city, Salem, also recorded the highest temperature in its history on Sunday: 112 F (44.4 C), breaking the old mark by 4 degrees.

The temperature hit 103 F (39.4 C) at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on Sunday. The NWS said that tied



Salem Fire Department Capt. Matt Brozovich, left, and Falck Northwest ambulance personnel help treat a man experiencing heat exposure at a cooling center during a heat wave, Saturday, June 26, 2021, in Salem, Ore.

an all-time record and was the first time the area recorded two consecutive triple digit days since records began being kept in 1894.

Records were being broken across the region, and the sizzling temperatures were expected to get even hotter Monday before beginning to cool Tuesday.

There were also some power outages. Portland General Electric said about 3,000 customers were without electricity in the greater Portland area Sunday afternoon. Puget Sound Energy reported 3,400

customers down in the greater Seattle area.

The heat wave stretched into British Columbia, with the temperature in Lytton, a village in the Canadian province, reaching 115 F (46.1 C) Sunday afternoon, marking a new all-time high recorded in Canada.

A heat warning is in effect for most of Western Canada and the country’s weather agency says numerous daily temperature records have been shattered across British Columbia, which is directly north of Washington state.

It got so hot in Seattle Sun-

day the city parks department closed a community pool in the southern portion of the city because of “unsafe, dangerous pool deck temperatures.”

King County closed several COVID-19 testing sites because of the heat. Seattle opened additional public library branches Sunday, and will again Monday, to provide additional cooling centers, The Seattle Times reported.

Seattle’s light rail trains may have to operate at reduced speeds because of excessive heat on the tracks, causing delays that could continue into the work week, Sound Transit said Sunday.

The heat wave also moved into Idaho, where temperatures above 100 F (38 C) are forecast in Boise for at least seven days starting Monday. Ontario, Oregon—a city near the Idaho border—could see at least a week of triple-digit temperatures, including a high of 109 F (42.8 C) Wednesday, forecasters said.

Cities were reminding residents where pools, splash pads and cooling centers were available and urging people to stay hydrated, check on their neighbors and avoid strenuous activities.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bipartisan infrastructure deal back on track after walk-back

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bipartisan deal to invest nearly \$1 trillion in the nation’s infrastructure appeared to be back on track Sunday after a stark walk-back by President Joe Biden to his earlier insistence that the bill be coupled with an even larger Democrat-backed measure in order to earn his signature. Republican senators who brokered the agreement with the White House and Democrats to fund badly needed investments in roads, bridges, water and broadband internet indicated they were satisfied with Biden’s comments that he was dropping the both-or-nothing approach. In a statement issued Saturday after 48 hours of behind-the-scenes maneuvering by the White House to salvage the deal, Biden said it was not his “intent” to suggest he was issuing a veto threat on the bill. That proved to be enough for some wavering Republicans, who have privately and not-so-privately registered their displeasure at the linkage.

2 adults, 1 child killed after train hits vehicle in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—Two adults and a child were killed after a Metra train struck their vehicle Sunday in Chicago, officials said. A train heading north into the city struck a vehicle just after 5 p.m. on the city’s Far South Side and pushed it a half-mile before coming to a complete stop, Chicago fire officials told the Chicago Sun-Times. The force of the impact caused the train’s front car to partially derail and the vehicle caught fire, according to Metra spokeswoman Meg Reile. Two adults and one child riding in the vehicle were pronounced dead at the scene, according to fire officials. A 43-year-old man, also in the vehicle, was transported to a hospital in good to fair condition. The train’s conductor and engineer also reported injuries, though they were believed to be non-life threatening, Reile said. She said 41 passengers aboard the train declined medical attention and were transported to a different station so they could continue their way into the city.

Asia

Police: At least 7 are dead in Dhaka blast; cause unknown

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—At least seven people died and dozens were injured in an explosion Sunday in Bangladesh's capital.

But authorities could not determine the nature of the explosion that damaged vehicles and surrounding buildings, the police and fire department said.

The explosion took place in the evening at a building in Dhaka's Moghbazar area, and rescuers reached the scene, said Faisalur Rahman, a fire control room official.

At least seven buildings were damaged because of the force of the explosion, Rahman said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shafiqul Islam told reporters at least seven people died. The injured were taken to hospitals, he said.

"Certainly, this is a big explosion. Fire service and bomb disposal unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Unit have arrived at the scene. Their experts are working together. They are investigating the origin of the blast and the subsequent damages," said Sajjad Hossain, a deputy police commissioner in Dhaka.

Witnesses said it was a scene of destruction with glass shards and broken concrete on



Rescuers stand amid the debris after a blast at a market in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sunday, June 27, 2021.

streets. Two passenger buses were heavily damaged outside the building where the explosion took place, witnesses said.

"A fireball went over my head. Everything became dark and smoky with the sound. Pieces of glass started to shower from above. If I didn't use this (a folder bag) as a cover, I would've been under the glass pieces. Allah saved me from them," said Omar Sani, who was at the scene during the explosion.

"Then the buses crashed into one another, and one got crumbled. One man got out from that damage. He was

in very bad condition. We brought the other injured here. We found four people including one kid at one place The kid died from the impact. I brought the kid to hospital," he said.

Dhaka-based Ekattor TV stations said the condition of 10 of the injured were critical, among about 50 taken to hospitals.

It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion, but the main building where the explosion took place had a fast food shop. Reports said a faulty gas line or gas cylinders used by the food shop could be the reason behind the blast.

arrested a 57-year-old man at the airport Sunday night under the national security law, but did not identify him. He is the seventh Apple Daily executive to be arrested in two weeks, as Hong Kong authorities crack down on dissent in the semi-autonomous city, arresting most of the city's prominent pro-democracy figures and revamping Hong Kong's election laws to keep opposition voices out of the legislature. The Hong Kong Journalists Association condemned the police for targeting journalists.

Indian police say bomb-laden drones hit air base in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian officials said Sunday they suspect explosives-laden drones were used to attack an air base in the disputed region of Kashmir, calling it the first such incident of its kind in India. Dilbagh Singh, the region's police director-general, told the private news channel New Delhi Television that "drones with payload were used in both the blasts." Singh called the attack an act of terrorism. Two soldiers were lightly wounded in the explosions, according to a military officer who spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with military regulations. India's air force tweeted that the attack caused minor damage to a building on the base, located in the southern city of Jammu in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir, while the second blast hit an open area. It said no military equipment was damaged.

World

Ethiopian airstrike survivors recall massacre: 'Like a hell'

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Maerg was serving customers at his cafe in Ethiopia's Tigray village of Togoga when the military airstrike occurred, filling the room with dust and bringing down debris that struck him on the head.

"Everything was covered in black smoke, it was like a hell," he told The Associated Press by phone, recounting one of the deadliest attacks in the Tigray conflict. "There was so much blood."

Seven people were killed in his cafe alone, and some 30 were wounded, including his sister-in-law, who suffered burns on her face, hands and legs. Outside, he said, he saw dozens more bodies. As time passed, he watched in horror as survivors realized that Ethiopian soldiers were blocking medical aid from arriving.

"We feel very angry be-

cause a lot of lives could have been saved," he said.

Such witness accounts are emerging after Ethiopia's military has said it was responsible for the airstrike that struck Togoga's busy marketplace on Tuesday, which health officials said killed at least 64 people and injured dozens more. Many died when soldiers blocked medical teams from reaching them, or from taking them to hospitals in the regional capital, Mekele, just 60 kilometers (37 miles) away, health workers said.

The military said the airstrike targeted Tigray fighters dressed in civilian clothes who had gathered to celebrate Martyrs' Day. But witnesses told the AP that although fighters loyal to Tigray's former leaders had been active in the surrounding countryside days before the airstrike,

armed men were not in Togoga on the day of the attack.

Most of the victims were women and children, said a doctor who treated people at the scene.

In a war that has been largely fought in the shadows, with communications and transport links often cut since fighting in Tigray began in November, the airstrike in Togoga was a rare instance of a massacre emerging almost immediately. Within minutes, one former resident had tweeted the news. Within hours, there was international condemnation.

"Reprehensible," the United States said, as it, the United Nations and the European Union again called for a cease-fire in Tigray, where thousands of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands now face the world's worst famine in a decade.

WORLD BRIEFS

8 more arrests in Mexico border city attacks that killed 19

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Eight more suspects have been arrested for alleged involvement in gun attacks earlier this month that killed 19 people in the northern Mexico border city of Reynosa, nearly all of whom appeared to be innocent bystanders, officials said Sunday. The arrests brought to 13 the number of people detained over the June 19 attacks that left four gunmen and 15 civilians dead. One alleged gunman was detained after being wounded during the shootings, and four others were arrested at midweek. The Tamaulipas state security agency said the eight latest arrests included a Gulf Cartel leader identified as Iván Alejandro "N" or Jorge Iván "N," alias "La Vaca." Officials said the arrests came during a series of raids by state police in Rio Bravo, a municipality neighboring Reynosa that is controlled by the "Scorpions," a faction of the Gulf Cartel. Eight vehicles, 16 weapons, more than 3,900 cartridges of various calibers, 80 magazines, eight flak jackets and two grenades also were seized, authorities said.

20 people found dead on boat drifting in Turks and Caicos

PROVIDENCIALES, Turks and Caicos (AP)—A boat was found drifting about a mile off Grand Turk island

with 20 dead people on board, including two children, authorities in the Turks and Caicos Islands said Sunday. Officials said investigators had ruled out foul play but were still trying to determine what happened. The identities and origin of the dead were also under investigation. Fishermen spotted the small boat Thursday morning and alerted the marine branch of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, who towed the vessel ashore. The police communications officer, Takara Bain, said in a news release that investigators had discounted foul play and were looking at other possibilities, without giving any specifics. Police Commissioner Trevor Botting said the boat appeared to have come from outside the Caribbean and authorities did not think it had the Turks and Caicos as its destination. "My investigators are working to establish their identities and how they met their death," Botting said.

Greek police arrest 2 trying to sell rare Roman-era statue

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—Greek police said Sunday they have arrested two 56-year-old men for trying to sell a rare Roman-era statue of the Greek goddess Hecate for 40,000 euros (about \$48,000). Police in Thessaloniki said they also arrested a 35-year-old farmer from nearby Pella, who allegedly admitted that

he had found the statue on his farm and gave it to the two men to sell. Police were made aware of the finding and an undercover police officer posed as a buyer and, after a month of negotiations, the two men were arrested Friday in possession of the statue as they went to meet the purported buyer, police said in a statement, adding that such statues are "extremely rare." The marble statue, 33 centimeters (13 inches) high and 16 centimeters (six inches) wide and weighing 10 kilograms (22 pounds), is from the second or third century A.D., a time when Greece was part of the Roman Empire.

Guyana: 3 crewmembers killed when fuel vessel explodes

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP)—Three crewmen were killed in Guyana when a vessel used to transport fuel exploded at a pier, police said. A police statement said security personnel heard a loud explosion late Saturday at the pier south of Georgetown and found a raging fire. The bodies of the three sailors, including Capt. Seepersaud Persaud, were found near the bow of the MV Canada Club. The vessel normally transports fuel from neighboring Trinidad for state-owned Guyana Oil Corporation and had been moored and offloaded at the time. An investigation is underway.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Fire sets at least 16 boats ablaze in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP)—A fire engulfed 16 vessels in a Hong Kong typhoon shelter early Sunday, resulting in at least 10 boats sinking and one person sent to a hospital. The fire broke out at about 2:30 a.m. at the Aberdeen South typhoon shelter in Hong Kong, and was extinguished more than six hours later. Firefighters rescued 35 people from vessels during the fire, according to public broadcaster RTHK. There were no reports of any injuries, although one person who felt unwell was sent to the hospital. The fire services department used 11 fire boat monitors, eight jets, and mobilized four breathing apparatus teams to fight the blaze, according to a statement. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the fire.

Hong Kong's Apple Daily editorial writer arrested at airport

HONG KONG (AP)—An editorial writer of the now-defunct Hong Kong pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily was arrested at the airport on Sunday night while attempting to leave the city, local media reported. Local newspaper South China Morning Post and online news outlet Citizen News cited unidentified sources saying that editorial writer Fung Wai-kong was arrested on suspicion of foreign collusion to endanger national security. Fung was believed to be leaving for Britain when he was arrested, local media reported. Police said they

Overdrive

Used-car prices are poised to peak in US after pandemic surge

By ALEX TANZI
BLOOMBERG NEWS

The record-breaking rise in used-car prices is probably coming to an end—and with it a key driver of the recent spike in U.S. inflation.

The bellwether of the industry—the wholesale market where dealers buy and sell in bulk—has already topped out and prices of individual secondhand cars should follow in a matter of weeks, said Zo Rahim, industry analyst at Cox Automotive. Cox owns Manheim, the biggest U.S. auction house selling millions of vehicles every year.

Soaring prices for secondhand vehicles have helped push U.S. inflation to the highest in more than a decade. The cost of used cars and trucks climbed 10% in April, and another 7.3% in May when they were responsible for one-third of the overall rise in consumer prices.

All kinds of pandemic-driven shifts in supply and demand have contributed to the run-up. But there are signs that it may be peaking—bolstering the Federal Reserve's argument that the spike in inflation, as the Covid-19 pandemic eases and the economy reopens, will turn out to be largely transitory.

"Wholesale prices as of right now are at their peak and should start to come down," Rahim said. "We are seeing a decelerating pace of price increases



A used car for sale is pictured in Leesburg, Fla., on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. The record-breaking rise in used-car prices may be coming to an end.

STEPHEN M. DOWELL/ORLANDO SENTINEL/TNS

in the first two weeks of June, compared to what has been just an absolute surge."

Prices for individual vehicles typically track the wholesale market, but with a lag, he said. That likely means "a few more weeks of retail prices increasing, before they start to follow suit."

Manheim's wholesale index of used-vehicle value was 36% higher than a year earlier as of mid-June—down from an annual rate above 50% in April. One effect of higher prices has been to push the average age of vehicles on U.S. roads up to a record 12.1 years in January.

The volatile U.S. auto market was cited by Fed Chair Jerome Powell in a House hearing on Tuesday to help explain the outlook for consumer prices.

Following is an overview of some of them.

Demand Conditions Are Unusual...

U.S. household incomes actu-

ally rose on aggregate during the pandemic, as government aid and expanded benefits more than offset lost wages. And since lockdowns limited spending opportunities, much more of the money got stashed away than usual.

"Consumers are sitting on savings that they have accumulated over the last 12 months, and are leveraging that money to buy durable goods such as cars," said Rahim, the Cox Automotive analyst.

...And So Is Supply

Auto factories all over the world shut down at the worst points of the pandemic. As they tried to crank production back up, a new problem emerged: shortages of semiconductors, key components for in-car touchscreens and other functions like power steering. Global output of new vehicles in the first quarter was down more than 2 mil-

lion units from 2019. That's had a knock-on impact on the used-car market in the U.S. With a squeeze on the availability of new vehicles, many buyers turned to secondhand ones instead.

Businesses Changed Their Behavior...

Among those buyers, rental companies played a key role. They usually replenish their fleets with new cars. But this year, after selling hundreds of thousands of cars early in the pandemic as travel demand slumped, they've been turning to secondhand ones instead.

Companies like Hertz Global Holdings Inc. and Enterprise Holdings Inc. say they've been expanding their fleets by buying used cars where they can find suitable ones—contributing to the surge in demand, where they'd normally be adding to supply by selling their older vehicles.

...And So Did Consumers

As well as having more savings to spend on buying a car, many Americans have also soured on other kinds of transportation during the pandemic—making cars even more essential to millions of families. All forms of travel were sharply curtailed in the first months of the U.S. pandemic, but car usage never declined as much as planes or public transit—and it's come much closer to regaining pre-Covid levels.

Tesla takes top 'American-Made' spot from Ford in Cars.com list

By ERIC D. LAWRENCE
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Tesla has knocked Ford out of the top spot in the annual Cars.com ranking of which vehicles are most American.

The Tesla Model 3, assembled in Fremont, California, is No. 1 in the 2021 American-Made Index, the first time an electric vehicle has held the spot. The index dates to 2006.

The Ford Ranger midsize pickup, assembled in Wayne, Michigan, was No. 1 last year, but has fallen out of the top 10 in part because of "a fairly steep reduction" in content under the American Automobile Labeling Act, which relates to whether parts are considered domestic or foreign, according to Kelsey Mays, assistant managing editor for Cars.com and lead researcher for the index.

Tesla also scored the No. 3 spot with its Model Y crossover, assembled in Fremont.

"Tesla has now cemented

itself firmly" on the list, Mays said in a news release. Last year was the first time Tesla was even on it because the automaker previously had not provided enough information.

"Although we judge models on an individual basis, it's worth noting that Tesla is the only major automaker to claim 100% domestic production for all cars it sells in the U.S., well above the industry's roughly 52% average for the 2021 model year," Mays said in answer to a Free Press question.

The news wasn't all bad for Ford. The Dearborn automaker managed a No. 2 ranking with the Mustang (Flat Rock, Michigan). The other members of the Detroit Three, Stellantis and General Motors, also had vehicles in the top 10. The Jeep Cherokee (Belvidere, Illinois) came in at No. 4, and the Chevrolet Corvette (Bowling Green, Kentucky) was at No. 5.

Honda claimed spots 6 through 9 with its (in order)

Top 10

Cars.com 2021 American-Made Index, including assembly location and 2020 ranking

- **Tesla Model 3:** Fremont, California (4)
- **Ford Mustang:** Flat Rock, Michigan (34)
- **Tesla Model Y:** Fremont (unranked)
- **Jeep Cherokee:** Belvidere, Illinois (2)
- **Chevrolet Corvette:** Bowling Green, Kentucky (8)
- **Honda Ridgeline:** Lincoln, Alabama (6)
- **Honda Odyssey:** Lincoln (5)
- **Honda Pilot:** Lincoln (13)
- **Honda Passport:** Lincoln (7)
- **Toyota Tundra:** San Antonio, Texas (16)

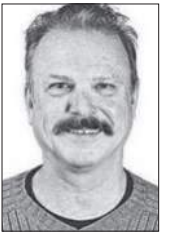
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Ridgeline, Odyssey, Pilot and Passport, all assembled in Lincoln, Alabama, and Toyota was at No. 10, with the Tundra, as-

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motor-mouth.tribune@gmail.com

Mysterious check oil light

Q My 2011 Acura MDX with only 83,000 miles does not burn or leak oil. However, when I either make a sharp left turn or sudden stop, the check oil message comes up for a brief instant then goes away. This never happens with any right turn I make or if I stop normally. Any thoughts?

A Honda had some issues with oil pressure switches, especially on engines that had some miles on them. The company released a revised switch that does not trigger at the lower, but safe, pressure typical of worn-in engines. Or maybe you are making some serious high-G maneuvers. The oil in the oil pan may be sloshing to one side and the oil pump gets starved momentarily. This is more likely to happen if the oil level is low. Check your dipstick.

Q We had an occasional dead battery with my mother-in-law's 2004 Chevy Impala. After an extensive search, our mechanic traced it to the automatic dimmer rear view mirror. Apparently, there was a short that was draining just a few amps but was enough to drain the battery every few days. Once we disconnected the mirror, we never had that problem again.

A Problems such as this have been around forever. If it is not the review mirror, it may be the glove compartment light, the trunk light, the underhood light or a myriad other potential battery drains. A simple way for your auto tech to begin is to connect an ammeter to the battery and start pulling fuses until the drain stops. But then the serious circuit sleuthing begins.

Q I read your Q&A about what to do with the glaring sun and am not sure the "eyebrow" area windshield tint was discussed. It has really helped me. You can get the dark 6 to 8 inches of tint on the top of your windshield and it make all the difference! Better than holding your hand up to block that one place where the sun is searing your vision.

A Tint is permitted only on the top 4-5 inches of the windshield above the A1 line. If your car did not come with a tinted windshield, you can install a strip, but sun strips that dip lower may be illegal in some states. You can find the A1 mark on the top left portion of the glass.

Q When HID headlights came out, I went for them in a big way because they are vastly superior to the halogens. They also have a distinct horizontal cutoff line. The new LEDs make me want to quit driving at night because of the dazzling effect. And why aren't there standards for headlight height as most of the new vehicles have the headlights at my eye level when I'm sitting in the car?

A High-intensity discharge (HID) lights were a quantum leap ahead for nighttime driving but were expensive and took a moment to reach full intensity. LEDs come on immediately and, as you have seen, are very bright. The U.S. Department of Transportation has regulations for lighting and carmakers must meet those regs. Some state safety inspections require properly re-aiming the lights, but seldom do inspectors go through the trouble to check. In Europe, cars must have headlight lens cleaners (squirters) and automatic leveling, but not in the USA. It is illegal to convert your headlights to LEDs. And those super bright LED light strips that some idiots install are quite illegal.

Life & Style

Cardi B, Queen Latifah, Lil Nas X shine at BET Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Cardi B's "WAP" had new meaning at the BET Awards: winning and pregnant.

The Grammy-winning star debuted her baby bump during a live performance Sunday alongside husband Offset as well as Quavo and Takeoff of Migos. She also won video of the year for her Megan Thee Stallion-assisted No. 1 hit "WAP."

Cardi B didn't stay to accept the honor at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, but Megan Thee Stallion rushed to the stage to pick up the award, forgetting to thank Cardi during her speech.

But the "Savage" rapper made up for it when she won best female hip-hop artist moments later.

"I really forgot to say 'thank you Cardi' for even putting me on 'WAP' because it makes me feel so good to be acknowledged by one of my peers, who I think so highly of," said Megan Thee Stallion, who was the big winner

'F9' puts charge back into movie theaters with \$70M opening

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In the strongest sign yet that life is left in movie theaters, "F9" sped to a box office take of \$70 million in its first weekend, the biggest opening for a film since the pandemic began, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The ninth installment in the "Fast & Furious" franchise, starring franchise regulars Vin Diesel and Michelle Rodriguez, opened only in theaters and had the widest release of any movie since the start of the coronavirus crisis.

The domestic total for Universal Pictures' "F9" topped the previous pandemic-best of



AP
Lil Nas X performs "Call Me By Your Name" at the BET Awards on Sunday, June 27, 2021, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

of the night with four trophies. "I think so highly of all the women who was nominated in this category."

Along with celebrating female artists, the BET Awards also highlighted gay pride

with a seductive performance by Lil Nas X and Queen Latifah, who thanked her reported partner and son when she accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award.

As she rattled on thank

you's, she said: "Ebony, my love, Rebel, my love." The 51-year-old ended with: "Peace! Happy pride!"

Queen Latifah was honored for her illustrious career as a Grammy-winning rapper, a

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "I don't think you could have imagined a better scenario for the industry, with a few speed bumps in there. With 'Furious 9' being really the first summer blockbuster in two years."

"F9" debuted internationally on May 19, and has now grossed more than \$400 million globally.

Universal eschewed the hybrid approach of combining theatrical and streaming releases, as Disney did earlier in the year with "Cruella" and Warner Bros. did with "Godzilla vs. Kong."

release. "The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard" brought in \$4.88 million in the third spot.

"F9", whose release was delayed several times, looks to have landed on just the right weekend to open in North America. It seemed to be a fitting film for the industry moment, with young audiences eager to be in theaters for a movie that emphasizes a loud, action-packed, immersive experience.

"It's the perfect intersection of growing consumer confidence and vaccinations in North America, with movies that have already been released creating momentum," said

Golden Globe-winning actor and an Emmy-winning TV producer. Rapsody and Monie Love kicked off the tribute with a performance of "Ladies First," which was followed by Lil Kim and MC Lyte rapping the classic "U.N.I.T.Y."

Lil Nas X won over the crowd with his No. 1 hit "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)," which ended with the rapper locking lips with a male background dancer, as the crowd roared loudly. Some audience members jumped out of their seats in praise.

His stage was set in Ancient Egypt, much like Michael Jackson's "Remember the Time," which Lil Nas X paid tribute to with a skilled dance break during the performance.

Mothers were also saluted during the three-hour-plus

show: Queen Latifah, who attended with her father, held a photo on her mother onstage; Megan Thee Stallion remembered her mother, who died in 2019, during her speech: "She can't be here with me today but I still think about her everyday and she is the reason why I keep going." And Jazmine Sullivan—who won album of the year for her critically acclaimed EP "Heaux Tales"—attended the show with her mother, who is battling cancer.

"My mom was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago so we didn't see any of this happening, but God has been so faithful to us and my mom is in remission," she said. "This is my prize. This is my gift. It means more to me than anything that she's here with me. She supported me all my life."

WINNERS' LIST

A list of winners at the 2021 BET Awards, which aired live Sunday from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Video of the year: Cardi B featuring Megan Thee Stallion, "WAP"

Best female R&B/pop artist: H.E.R.

Best male R&B/pop artist: Chris Brown

Best female hip-hop artist: Megan Thee Stallion

Best male hip-hop artist: Lil Baby

Best new artist: Giveon

Best group: Silk Sonic (Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak)

Best collaboration: Cardi B featuring Megan Thee Stallion, "WAP"

Album of the year: Jazmine Sullivan, "Heaux Tales"

Viewer's Choice Award: Megan Thee Stallion featuring Beyoncé, "Savage (Remix)"

Lifetime Achievement Award: Queen Latifah

Dr. Bobby Jones best gospel/inspirational Award: Kirk Franklin, "Strong God"

BET HER Award: SZA, "Good Days"

Video director of the year: Bruno Mars and Florent Déchard

Best actress: Andra Day

Best actor: Chadwick Boseman

Best movie: "Judas and the Black Messiah"

Youngstars award: Marsai Martin

Sportswoman of the year: Naomi Osaka

Sportsman of the year: LeBron James

Best international act: Burna Boy (Nigeria)

Viewer's choice — best new international act: Bree Runway (UK)

Wedding plans reveal deep divide for couple

DEAR ABBY: Against my better judgment, I agreed to allow my parents to pay for our upcoming wedding. It was something they pretty much insisted upon. My fiancé was upset by my decision because he fears I'm in collusion with them to make a big show of it.

For the last 10 months he has been suggesting we nix the religious ceremony and get married privately. I am hurt because while I don't want a big party, I have always wanted a full ceremony with my friends and family. I have been trying to assuage his fears because I know he will appreciate the wedding on the day of, but he feels neglected. How can we compromise so that neither of us feels resentful?

PARTY OF TWO

DEAR PARTY: If you and your fiancé haven't had premarital counseling—and it's apparent from your letter that you haven't—I urge you to get some right away. The two of you are encountering serious issues that need to be resolved BEFORE your wedding. That he doesn't trust you and feels you might be conspiring with your parents against him is a huge red flag.

When he says he wants to "nix the religious ceremony," is he talking about the religious aspect of it—or what he perceives to be a circus surrounding it? If it's the former, it

could affect the way you raise your children. If a compromise can be reached, counseling will help you to determine what you may need to do next. Please don't wait. Start now.

DEAR ABBY: For a long time, I have been in love with a man who is 15 years younger than I am. We had a relationship for about a year, which ended six years ago. Since then, we have remained friends and occasionally hooked up a few times. The short relationship we had was close to perfect. He broke it off with me because he said he couldn't give me the relationship I really wanted and I would end up resenting him or even hating him for it.

Although I didn't understand that when he said it, I understand now he was right. The problem is, I cannot seem to get over him. I've had two unsuccessful relationships since. They weren't the same as it was with him. I don't know what to do.

A few months ago, I cut off everything with him, and we haven't talked in many months. It's not working! I'm still in love with him and can't get him out of my head. I mentioned the age difference because I had a hard time with it, but he didn't. What else can I do? I'm afraid to start anything with someone new.

HOPELESS IN NEW YORK

DEAR HOPELESS: What you are describing is pain-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



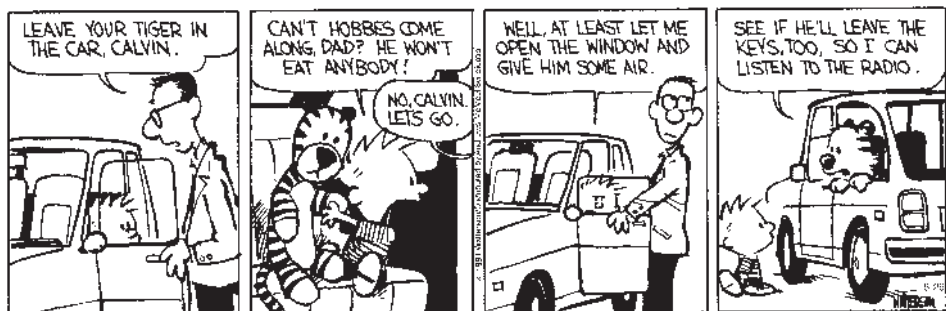
ful, but it's happening because you haven't accepted the reason the two of you broke up. He said he couldn't give you the relationship you really wanted—whatever that was. You are not in love with this man. You are in love with the fantasy of the person you wanted him to be. Once that fact is firmly in place in your head, you'll be able to move forward, although it may take help from a licensed psychotherapist to accomplish it. Whatever it takes, please do it, so you can start living your life.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Satchels tooth

5 Curved line

8 Diving duck

12 Genealogy chart

13 Author Tolstoy

14 Golden State sch.

15 Mr. Hickok

17 Deceitful person

18 Feedbag bit

19 Stored, as records

21 Signs

24 Biblical twin

25 Zilch

26 Backyard cooker

30 Yale grad

31 Orderly grouping

32 Ruby of films

33 "Don't fidget!"

35 Luke's teacher

36 Oodles

DOWN

37 Grinding

38 Text of a film

41 Greek cross

42 "Put — on it!"

43 Strong determination

48 Be slack-jawed

49 Very long time

50 Concept

51 Mast

52 Caviar

53 Adjoining

1 "Incidentally," to texters

2 Shapiro of NPR

3 Solidify

4 Arizona resort

5 Landed

6 Seminary subj.

7 Huge

8 Element No. 16

9 1102, to Nero

10 Airline to Tel Aviv

11 Bit of merchandise

16 Some coll.

20 Hungary's Imre —

21 Singles

22 Niger's neighbor

23 Work on proofs

24 British nobles

26 More fearless

27 Teen fave

28 Spartan queen

29 Mad king of theater

31 At the summit of

34 Small burger

35 "I give up!"

37 Fellow

38 Droops

39 Applaud

40 TV host Kelly

41 Vocal quality

44 Kanga's kid

45 Chemical suffix

46 Superman foe Luther

47 Long, crosser

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-29

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Camila Mendes, 27; Melora Hardin, 54; Kathleen Wilhoite, 57; Gary Busey, 77.

Happy Birthday: Doors will open if you make a point to attend online meetings, groups and organizations of interest. Communication can become spirited but also help you resolve issues that have been pending for some time. Redistribute your time to suit your needs and to make an adjustment to the way you live and how you deal with others. Your numbers are 7, 13, 22, 27, 35, 39, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Putter around the house, make some decorative alterations that lift your spirit and stay out of trouble. Put your energy where it will do some good; arguing or pushing yourself to the point of self-destruction is discouraged. Aim for comfort and convenience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do what you can to help, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. An opportunity to pick up information will positively direct you. Do your own thing. If you follow someone, you'll be disappointed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be cautious when dealing with others. Emotions will surface if someone misleads you. Show discipline and know when to say no. Focus on personal growth, learning all you can to help you get ahead. Choose your allies carefully.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone will take advantage of you or steal your ideas. You'll avoid being taken advantage of if you don't share personal information.

Be prepared to make a change if it means learning something new and exciting. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look before you leap. Nothing will be as it appears. Ask questions, consider your budget, and make sure an offer is solid and the information you receive is sustainable. Be prepared to put in the time if you want to reap the rewards. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus more on what you can do yourself and less on what others say they can do for you. It's up to you to find the best opportunity and to do whatever is in your power to achieve the success you want. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Concentrate on what will bring in the highest return mentally, emotionally and financially. An intelligent approach to learning, developing a plan and choosing who best to work alongside will pay off. Make decisions based on facts, not assumptions. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the necessary steps to get out of a rut. Focus on lifestyle and how to turn your space into a place of peace and solitude. Build your vision instead of dreaming about how you want your life to unfold. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your heart and soul into self-improvement and making meaningful relationships a priority. Monitor your behavior and the people who influence you the most. Aim to prioritize what's essential and to minimize bad habits. Take better care of your health and well-being. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The past will help you navigate your way forward. Learn from the experience you have, and you will make better decisions regarding friendships. Choose to take on tasks that make a difference. Use your unique talents to prosper. ★★★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Finish what you start before you jump into something new. Make adjustments that are conducive to getting more done in a shorter period. Organization and preparation will make a difference between success and failure. Choose your battles wisely. ★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make the appropriate changes at home to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Don't let complications set in because you neglected to reveal vital information. Recognize that others count on you. Don't let an unexpected expense or last-minute change cause discord. ★★★

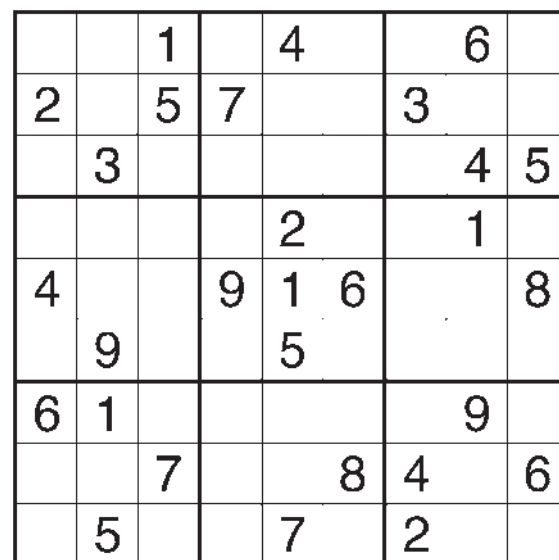
Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, generous and curious. You are resilient and proactive.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

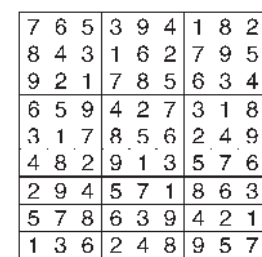
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

6/29

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TAKING EXTRA PRECAUTIONS

Solution: 9 letters

M C S U C O F Y E N O M A S K
E A E S E V O L G K N I H T N
D R C H E L M E T P H S C E O
I E U H P R A H S M T E G G W
C F R M I L R E A A L N E D L
I U E E E N L X B F A O G U E
N L S R S R U E L R E R E I A B D
E O T T R C E R R E H T B U G
R F I N O G U A Y A S S R S E
A E A T A M N E T D K E A I R
P V T S C L S I U Y S U G N A
E I W L W A I O D T I Q A E W
R R O A E I O G U A R D M S A
P D R T C H S N I A R T E S R
O Y K L O B S E R V E T S S N

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6/29

Action, Alert, Arrange, Aware, Budget, Business, Careful, Customs, Drive, Duty, Employ, Exam, Focus, Games, Garbage, Gloves, Guard, Health, Helmet, Knowledge, Machinery, Mask, Medicine, Money, Observe, Prepare, Question, Ready, Reflect, Rescue, Risks, Rules, Safe, Secure, Sharp, Shelter, Stable, Teas, Think, Trading, Train, Vigilant, Warn, Wary, Wise, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Mortgage

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Middleton's 38 power Bucks past Hawks 113-102 for 2-1 lead



ATLANTA (AP)—Khriston Middleton showed once again that the Milwaukee Bucks have more than one player capable of taking over a game.

He did it Sunday night at the best possible time.

Middleton scored 20 of his playoff career high-tying 38 points in the fourth quarter, leading the Bucks to a 113-102 victory over the Atlanta Hawks for a 2-1 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

"What he did today was un-

real," Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "He was unbelievable. Carried the team at the end. ... What I saw today was greatness. Simple as that."

Trae Young scored 35 points for Atlanta but was slowed in the final period. He stepped on an official's foot late in the third and injured his right ankle. He will have an MRI on the ankle on Monday.

"It's hurting. It's frustrating," Young said, adding the injury impacted "my blow-by speed."

Game 4 is Tuesday night in Atlanta.

All eyes on Young's ankle after freak encounter with referee

ATLANTA (AP)—Finally, Trae Young ran into someone he couldn't beat.

A referee.

The Atlanta Hawks' playoff star sprained his right ankle in a freak encounter with an official's foot late in the third quarter of Game 3 in the Eastern Conference finals against the Milwaukee Bucks on Sunday night.

Young was able to return for much of the fourth quarter, but he didn't have the sort of explosiveness that has made him the breakout leader of Atlanta's stunning playoff run.

"It's sore right now," he said, rubbing his forehead. "It's hurting. It's frustrating."

Young will undergo an MRI on Monday to determine the full extent of the sprain. He'll also be getting extensive treatment over the next 48 hours in an attempt to make sure he's as healthy as possible going into Game 4.

"I don't know how bad it is, but he was definitely limping," teammate Danilo Gallinari said. "I'm guessing he was not feeling very good."

Even though Young finished with 35 points, the Hawks bogged down offensively in the closing minutes, allowing the Bucks to rally for a 113-102 victory that gave Milwaukee a 2-1 lead.

It's hard to envision the Hawks advancing to the NBA Finals if Young is not at least some semblance of himself the rest of the series.

"Of course, he's our best player," Gallinari said. "If we had to play without him, it's tough."

Young was injured after he threw a pass that was deflected by Jrue Holiday. The Hawks guard turned to run back on defense, only to step on the foot of ref Sean Wright, who was standing just out of bounds.

It was simply an accident, but that didn't make it any less painful for Young.

"I didn't see him," he said. "I guess I've got to have eyes in the back of my head now to see who's behind me."

Young remained down on the court until the next whistle. He hobbled first to the bench and then to the locker room to be examined.

The Atlanta crowd roared when Young returned to the sideline early in the fourth quarter, having been cleared to go back in the game.

But he was limping noticeably and grimacing when he came up the court. Young made only one of four shots in the fourth period, ruining what had been a bounce-back performance from a tough outing in a 34-point rout by the Bucks in Game 2.

Young acknowledged that he didn't have the speed to blow by defenders the way he normally does.

"That's a big part of my game," he said.

Coach Nate McMillan took Young out with just under a minute remaining and saw no reason to put him back in.

Now, the focus is on getting him ready for Game 4.

Young intends to play. McMillan sounded a little less certain.

"I don't know right now," McMillan said. "When he returned to the floor, he was obviously limping on that (ankle). When I subbed for him, we just decided to keep him out."

Milwaukee star Giannis Antetokounmpo acknowledged that his team caught a break when Young was injured.

"I hope he can compete in Game 4," the two-time MVP said. "Yeah, the Hawks definitely need him. He's a big part of what they do and is tough to guard."

Young has dealt with ankle injuries from stepping on another player's foot.

But a ref's foot?

That was a new one.

"Just a freaky accident," Young said.



AP
Milwaukee Bucks forward Khriston Middleton (22) reacts to a play during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals against the Atlanta Hawks, Sunday, June 27, 2021, in Atlanta.

Middleton scored 10 points in the decisive run in the fourth that gave Milwaukee the lead. He had 11 rebounds and seven assists.

"I just finally got them to go," Middleton said. "I've been struggling some with the ball going in the basket. Finally they started dropping for me at the right time. I'm thankful for that."

Antetokounmpo, who often has the spotlight for Milwaukee, had 33 points. The Bucks trailed most of the game before surging in the fourth

quarter. Atlanta led 95-88 before Middleton made his first of three 3-pointers during the 15-3 run for a 103-98 lead.

"Just being around him a lot, he starts to see it go in, he starts to feel good, he gets in a rhythm in a lot of ways," said Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer before adding "I'm just glad he's on our side."

After never leading in a 125-91 Game 2 loss, the Hawks were eager for a better start in their first home game of the series. Turnovers by Middle-

ton and Antetokounmpo led to dunks by Clint Capela, and Kevin Huerter added a 3-pointer for a 7-0 lead.

The Hawks stretched the advantage to 13 points. Antetokounmpo was held to five first-quarter points but regained his scoring form in the second period. He had 11 points in the period as the Bucks finally pulled even at 56-all on a 3-pointer by Pat Connaughton with 12 seconds remaining in the half.

The Bucks took their first

lead at 82-80 on a basket by Bobby Portis Jr. with 1:47 remaining in the third. A 3-pointer by Danilo Gallinari, who had 18 points, gave Atlanta an 85-83 lead at the end of the period.

Middleton opened the final period by sinking a 3 that signaled the start of his big period. He went on to outscore the Hawks, who had 17 points, by himself in the period.

"He was really going from everywhere," Hawks coach Nate McMillan said.

Ayton's emergence has Suns a win from the NBA Finals

PHOENIX (AP)—Deandre Ayton is rapidly become the player the Phoenix Suns imagined when the ping-pong balls bounced their way for the 2018 NBA draft.

The third-year center was in top form Saturday in a hard-fought 84-80 Game 4 win over the Los Angeles Clippers. He scored 19 points, grabbed a playoff career-high 22 rebounds, blocked four shots, and was generally the only person on the floor who could put the ball in the basket with any kind of consistency.

Now the Suns have a 3-1 lead in the Western Conference finals and are one win from a trip to the NBA Finals for the first time since 1993.

Game 5 is on Monday in Phoenix.

"I thought Deandre's presence, his effort, the rebounding, shot blocking, his communication on defense, switching out on smaller guys and being able to guard them, he was the catalyst on the defensive end," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "I thought it was an unreal performance from him. Our guys rallied around him."

Williams added of Ayton: "Every possession he's playing like his life depends on it."

There have certainly been

some growing pains for the No. 1 overall pick out of Arizona. His rookie year was decent, though his effort on the defensive end was sometimes inconsistent. His second year was marred by a 25-game suspension for violating the league's Anti-Drug policy after testing positive for a diuretic.

It was easy to wonder if the Suns had made the right choice.

Now there's not much concern. The 22-year-old has already had one of the iconic moments in Suns playoff basketball history when he dunked an alley-oop pass from Jae Crowder with 0.7 seconds left to win Game 2 last week.

It was another example of Ayton's newfound confidence and tenacity.

"I learned I could keep going," Ayton said. "There's another level—I learned that. I think I reached the next level that I really need to be at, at this level when it comes to competing."

NO KAWHI

There's little doubt that the Clippers have missed the presence of Kawhi Leonard. The All-Star forward has missed six straight games due to a sprained right knee after he averaged 30.4 points

in the postseason.

He'll miss a seventh straight game on Monday.

Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said Leonard would remain in Los Angeles while Game 5 is played in Phoenix. Lue hasn't given much clue as to when—or if—Leonard might return during the postseason.

UNFORGIVING RIMS

Chris Paul's return after missing two games in the league's COVID-19 protocol was supposed to be a big boost for the Suns' offense.

So far that hasn't been the case. The Suns scored just 92 points in Game 3 and 84 in Game 4.

Devin Booker hasn't been as productive since his broken nose suffered on a head-to-head collision with LA's Patrick Beverley in Game 2. Booker wore a plastic mask over his face in Game 3 and part of Game 4 before ditching it after he missed a layup.

"I didn't think the shots were bad yesterday," Williams said. "We just had so many shots go in and out, in and out. I don't know if I've ever seen that many in a game. I think both those guys—they've got multiple defenders on them, they're being blitzed at times,

they're being switched onto. It's the playoffs."

Williams said the Suns' intense defense has allowed them to take a 3-1 lead. But he knows a few shots need to drop, too.

"I'm hoping we see an offensive explosion soon," Williams said.

PAUL'S PROBLEMS

Without Leonard in the lineup, Clippers forward Paul George has had a huge role in the offense. He's averaging 27.5 points, 10.3 rebounds and 6.3 assists through four games in the Western Conference finals.

The problem is George is needing a lot of shots to get to those numbers. He's shooting just 36% from the field, 28% from 3-point range and 70% from the free throw line, including a few late-game misses that have been crucial.

George was just 5 of 20 from the field in Game 4, including 1 of 9 from 3-point range. Fatigue could be a problem: George is playing more than 41 minutes per game in this series.

"You know, it's just what it is. I feel good," George said. "Not going to let that be an excuse or have something to fall back on. I feel good. When I'm out there, I feel good."

Nola ties record with 10 straight Ks, Phils, Mets split DH



NEW YORK
(AP)—Bryce Harper blew

kisses at a booing crowd to punctuate his home run, and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the New York Mets 2-1 in eight innings Friday night for a doubleheader split after Aaron Nola matched a long-standing major league record with 10 straight strikeouts in the opener.

Odúbel Herrera drove in the tiebreaking run with a ground-out against reliever Sean Reid-Foley (2-1) in the eighth as both games took an extra inning to determine a winner.

Nola tied Tom Seaver's mark for consecutive strikeouts set 51 years ago, but the Mets rallied to win the first game 2-1 in eight innings on big hits by Francisco Lindor and Dominic Smith.

Following a costly error by third baseman Alec Bohm in the bottom of the seventh, Archie Bradley (3-1) limited the damage and allowed only pinch-hitter James McCann's tying sacrifice fly in the nightcap.

In the opener, Seth Lugo (1-0) struck out three in the top of the eighth and stranded two runners for the NL East leaders, playing their third doubleheader in seven days.

Nola matched the mark set by Mets ace Tom Seaver, who fanned his final 10 hitters in a 2-1 victory over the San Diego Padres at Shea Stadium on April 22, 1970.

The Hall of Famer's mark for consecutive strikeouts remained unmatched for more than five decades until Nola whiffed Michael Conforto with a changeup leading off the fourth at Citi Field.

Padres 11, Diamondbacks 5

In San Diego, San Diego slugger Fernando Tatis Jr. hit three homers, hours after saying he would skip the All-Star Home Run Derby because of an ailing shoulder, and the Padres sent Arizona to its record 24th straight road loss.

Tatis hit a solo home run off Corbin Martin in the first inning and another solo drive in the second off Riley Smith. Tatis connected again in his third at-bat, a two-run shot off Smith in the fourth. Tatis got two more chances at becoming the 19th player to share the record of four homers in a game.

Tatis is tied with Vladimir Guerrero Jr. of Toronto for the major league lead with 25 home runs.

The Diamondbacks continued their dubious run. Arizona hasn't won on the road in exactly two months, with its last victory away from Chase Field coming on April 25 when Madison Bumgarner threw seven no-hit innings to win in Atlanta.

Tommy Pham and Jake



AP
Philadelphia Phillies' Aaron Nola delivers a pitch during the first inning of the first baseball game of a doubleheader against the New York Mets, Friday, June 25, 2021, in New York.

en runs, five hits and three walks in a season-low 2 1/3 innings.

Mariners 9, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Yusei Kikuchi pitched another road gem and Luis Torrens homered twice, helping Seattle beat Chicago.

Seattle won for the ninth time in 11 games. Jake Fraley also went deep for the Mariners, and Jake Bauers had a run-scoring single.

Kikuchi allowed one run and two hits in 5 2/3 innings, while improving to 4-0 with a 1.98 ERA over his last six starts. Torrens hit a two-run shot in the second and another two-run drive in the seventh for his first career multihomer game.

Yasmani Grandal's second-inning homer accounted for Chicago's only run against Kikuchi (5-3), who struck out six and walked four.

Pirates 5, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Wil Crowe gave up four runs over five innings for his first major league win, and Pittsburgh beat St. Louis for its fifth victory in seven games following a 10-game losing streak.

Jacob Stallings and Phillip Evans drove in two runs each for the Pirates.

St. Louis has lost five straight, seven of eight and 18 of 24, dropping a season-worst four games under .500 at 36-40.

Crowe (1-4) allowed eight hits, struck out two and walked two. He gave up solo homers to Nolan Arenado in the third and Dylan Carlson in the fourth. Richard Rodríguez pitched a perfect ninth for his 10th save in 12 chances.

Jake Woodford (1-1) took the loss.

Giants 2, Athletics 0

In San Francisco, Johnny Cueto outdueled Sean Manaea and San Francisco beat Oakland in the Bay Bridge Series opener.

Curt Casali, a last-minute addition in place of ailing Buster Posey, homered in the seventh to greet A's reliever Cam Bedrosian.

Cueto (6-3) gave up five hits over seven scoreless innings, struck out six and walked one.

Manaea (6-4) struck out seven and walked three, allowed one run on three hits over six innings, and also had a pair of hits.

Posey was a late scratch because of low back tightness, with Casali called into duty.

Jake McGee earned his 15th save as San Francisco won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Cronenworth also homered for the Padres. Nick Ramirez (1-1) got the win.

Martin (0-3) took the loss.

Dodgers 6, Cubs 2

In Los Angeles, AJ Pollock and Max Muncy homered during the eighth inning as Los Angeles rebounded from being no hit by Chicago one night earlier.

Zach McKinstry also went deep for the Dodgers. Blake Treinen (2-3), the sixth of seven pitchers who got the call from Dave Roberts, pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings.

Kris Bryant homered and Jason Heyward had two of the Cubs' five hits. Ryan Tepera (0-1) took the loss.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 5, 10 innings

In Buffalo, N.Y., Austin Hays drove in two runs to cap an eighth-inning rally, and Baltimore beat Toronto to snap a 20-game road losing streak.

Baltimore's road skid was tied for the second-longest in AL history, trailing only the 22 losses in a row by the 1943 Philadelphia Athletics. The last-place Orioles won for the second time in 16 games and improved to 24-52, including 12-26 away from home.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his major league-leading 25th home run for Toronto.

Paul Fry (1-2) retired the side in the ninth inning, and Cole Sulser pitched a scoreless 10th for his second save.

Toronto's Trent Thornton (1-3) took the loss.

Red Sox 5, Yankees 3

In Boston, Hunter Renfroe had two RBIs, including go-ahead sacrifice fly in the third inning, and Boston's pitchers held New York scoreless over the final seven innings.

It was Boston's fourth

straight win over the Yankees.

Boston starter Martín Pérez allowed six hits and three runs over 3 2/3 innings, walking two and striking out three before being replaced by Hirokazu Sawamura.

Garrett Whitlock (3-1) got the win after allowing no runs and one hit over two innings. Matt Barnes picked up his 16th save.

New York's Domingo Germán (4-5) pitched four innings, yielding five hits and all four runs while striking out three and walking one to take the loss.

Rangers 9, Royals 4

In Arlington, Texas, Nate Lowe's three hits included his first career triple in the majors as Texas dominated their former All-Star Mike Minor and beat Kansas City.

Playing his 146th game in the big leagues, Lowe's two-run triple highlighted a four-run fourth inning. Rookie Jonah Heim matched career highs with three hits and two RBIs for Texas.

Dane Dunning (3-6) won for the first time since May 9, allowing two runs on five hits and two walks in five innings.

Minor (6-5), an All-Star for the Rangers in 2019 who traded at the deadline in 2020, allowed a career-high nine earned runs in five-plus innings in his 197th career start. His 11 hits allowed tied a career high.

The Royals have lost three straight games and 15 of 19.

Twins 8, Indians 7

In Minneapolis, Luis Arraez hit two triples and a tiebreaking two-run double in the sixth inning, sparking Minnesota to a victory over Cleveland.

Arraez went 3 for 4 with three RBIs, Alex Kirilloff hit a two-run homer and Josh Donaldson also drove in two runs for the Twins.

Griffin Jax (1-0) got his first career victory with 4 1/3 innings in relief, and Hansel Robles recorded his seventh save by finishing the ninth.

Josh Naylor, Amed Rosario, Bobby Bradley and Eddie Rosario went deep for the Indians, who took a 3-0 lead in the first inning. Nick Wittgren (2-2) gave up two singles in the sixth before Arraez's double.

Rays 4, Angels 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Shohei Ohtani led off by homering for the seventh time in nine games, but Tampa Bay edged Los Angeles when pinch-hitter Brandon Lowe was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Moved up to the leadoff spot, Ohtani hit a drive estimated at 453 feet off the D-ring in right field at Tropicana Field, only the 39th ball to reach that spot since the park opened in 1998. It was Ohtani's 24th homer, extending a career high.

Lowe was hit by Steve Cisek's pitch with the score 3-all in the seventh inning. Yandy Díaz and Ji-Man Choi walked to start the inning against José Suarez (2-1).

Collin McHugh (2-1) went 1 1/3 scoreless innings to get the win. Diego Castillo worked the ninth for his 12th save.

The victory was Kevin Cash's 500th as manager of the Rays (500-447).

Braves 3, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Guillermo Heredia homered, doubled and made a defensive gem before crashing into the wall in the eighth inning in his return to the lineup in Atlanta's win over Cincinnati.

The game's first run came in the fifth when Atlanta's Freddie Freeman doubled home Ronald Acuña Jr. for his 900th career RBI.

Dansby Swanson hit a solo

homer in the sixth and Heredia added a solo shot in the seventh, both off Reds rookie Vladimir Gutiérrez (3-2).

Eugenio Suárez also hit a solo home run off Luke Jackson in the seventh.

Drew Smyly (1-1) exited after six innings with a 3-1 lead. Will Smith worked the ninth and picked up his 16th save.

Brewers 5, Rockies 4, 11 innings

In Milwaukee, Willy Adames hit a tying, two-run homer in the ninth inning and singled to set up Keston Hiura's sacrifice fly in the 11th as Milwaukee beat Colorado to cap a return to full capacity at American Family Field.

With Manny Piña at second base to start the bottom of the 11th, Adames singled off Lucas Gilbreath (0-1). Jackie Bradley Jr. walked to load the bases before Hiura lifted a flyball over a five-man infield that was caught by Raimel Tapia, whose one-hop throw was up the first-base line.

Hiura hit a solo homer off Colorado reliever Tyler Kinley in the seventh.

Devin Williams (4-1) pitched the 11th got the win.

Marlins 11, Nationals 2

In Miami, Kyle Schwarber hit 13th home run in the last 14 games but Miguel Rojas hit a three-run homer in a four-run first inning and Miami went on to end Washington's five-game win streak.

Rojas had four RBIs, and Garrett Cooper homered and doubled twice as the Marlins stopped a four-game losing streak. Adam Duvall reached base four times with two singles and two walks.

Pablo López (4-4) gave up two runs and six hits in six innings with nine strikeouts and one walk.

Jon Lester (1-3) allowed sev-

Samoa vets make up badminton training pool

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With the NMI 2022 Pacific Mini Games less than a year away, the Northern Marianas Badminton Association said the national team that finished fifth place in the team event of the last Pacific Games will form the bulk of the training pool for next year's quadrennial event.

The CNMI National Badminton Team to the XVI Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa was made up of Andreu Galvez, Nate Guerrero, Ezekiel and Daniel Macario, Janelle and Jordan Pangilinan, and Nicole Malasarte.

"Players who represented the CNMI to the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa are now part of our national team training pool. They are practicing regularly and are helping NMBA look for other players that we could add to the pool," said NMBA president Merlie Tolentino.

In the recent TanHoldings Badminton Team Tournament, Tolentino said NMBA made a conscious effort to spread players on the national pool to the five teams.

"[We did so] for mentoring and for them to challenge

players with different skill levels in actual matches.

They will have a more rigorous training sessions this summer. We would not announce the members of the CNMI National Team to the Mini Games until early next year," she added.

Galvez, Guerrero, Malasarte, the Macario brothers, and the Pangilinan siblings beat Samoa, 4-1, and Kiribati, 3-2, in the team event of the 2019 Apia Pacific Games to finish with a 2-4 record. That was good enough for fifth place, which was an accomplishment in itself consider-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2019 file photo, CNMI and Samoa badminton players pose for a photo before their match at the Multipurpose Gymnasium of the Faleata Sports Complex during the opening day of the XVI Pacific Games in Apia.

ing that players didn't benefit from any real coaching besides YouTube and players didn't had enough training time as the islands were still recovering from Super Typhoon Yutu's wrath a year before in 2018.

Aside from the TanHoldings Badminton Team Tournament, NMBA is also looking at hosting other competitions moving forward, especially now that the CNMI has transitioned to

Level Green—the safest—under the COVID-19 Task Force's five-color Community Vulnerability risk scale.

"Future competitions will help NMBA prepare for hosting the Pacific Mini Games in 2022. We will treat every competition as a dry-run for Mini Games to prepare our players, technical officials, and even volunteers," said Tolentino.

The NMBA also added that while they didn't hold any tournaments during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in the CNMI, they remained active in other ways.

"Although NMBA did not hold a tournament after the pandemic struck, NMBA managed to safely re-open our facility at the TSL Sports

Complex in the third quarter of 2020 and welcome back our players for regular practices and scrimmages. We also did Shuttle Time sessions as part

of our outreach programs with schools. However, you can't gauge the improvement of players by just playing for fun, you will need tournaments and

this is just the start of a series of competitions that we will be hosting to help our members raise their level of play," added Tolentino.

RBA goes back to practice on July 7

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rollers Basketball Association players will return to regular practice on July 7, according to RBA founder and head coach Joe Diaz.

Diaz said the practice sessions will be for RBA's three divisions—14-and-under, 12-and-under, and 8-and-under—and will be from 4pm to 6pm.

He said the reason RBA pushed back its practice sessions was to give way for the tryouts of the CNMI Men's and Women's National Basketball teams that are being formed by the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation for the 2023 Micronesian Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands. RBA is part of the NMIBF.

Diaz also thanked RBA

sponsors Hertz Rental Car and IT&E that made their trip to the recent Summer Heat 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

on Tinian possible. He also extended his kudos to coach/manager David Apatang and

RBA tournament director Ethan Kwon.

Rollers won three of four divisions in the two-day 3x3 competition hosted by Typhoons Sports Association. RBA won the U20 division, the women's di-

vision, and the U16 division. Rollers came second to Lasso in the U18 age group.

While RBA teams weren't coached in anyway during 3x3 matches, Diaz still thanked coaches of RBA 5x5 teams for preparing their players for the Tinian competition. Apatang coaches the U18 team, Marlene Lumabi is in charge of the U18 girls, Rollers Black 2 is mentored by Fredrick Litulumar, while Diaz himself handles the U20 and U16 Black 1 teams.

"And we do want to thank all our Rollers parents that are super supportive for our clubs," he added.

Aside from Diaz and the aforementioned coaches, RBA officials also include president Juan T. Dela Cruz, vice president Norris Kwon, secretary Vern Babauta, and treasurer Fausia Dela Cruz.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Rollers Basketball Association delegation poses for a group photo after winning three out of four division in the recent Summer Heat 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on Tinian.

BLUE

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blood for the NMI Men's National Team as he found the back of the net in the 10th minute. Mister and company kept the shaky lead for a while before Li Zhe Xiong hit the equalizer for the M-League All-Stars in the 28th minute. The match remained in a deadlock at the end of the first half.

In the second half, Kaden Church put the NMI Men's National Team back on top with his goal in the 52nd minute. Kohtaro Goto and Sunjoon Tenorio also scored in the second half, while the M-League All-Stars fired blanks to lose the exhibition match, Goto made it a 3-1 lead for the

Blue Ayuyus with his goal in the 63rd minute, while Tenoerio closed out for the squad in the 82nd.

Dane Hodges, Mareko Tekopua, Markus Toves, Thai-phi Austria, Taka Borja, Jireh Yobech, Joshua Abragan, Daniel Pablo, Rinto Takahashi, Ronnel Ocanada, Dev Bachani, and John Bucayo were also on the roster of the NMI Men's National Team that played in last Sunday's event.

The M-League All-Stars, on the other hand, also had Floyd Muna, Richard Steele, Jerald Aquino, Jeremiah Diaz, Andrew Omelau, Eunsyu Hahn, Skyler Poon, Alan Hinson, Eric Barajas, Jason Quimzon, Whit Altizer, Ajani Burrell, Jeff Seo, and Mark Esalan in the lineup.

DREAM

From Page 20

What made the win more impressive was Dream Team completed the wire-to-wire victory minus former CNMI national women's team mainstay Lia Rangamar, who was injured early in the game trying to save the ball from going outside on the end line.

Travilla, Fernandez, and cager-turned-weightlifter Antonette Labusa went on to dedicate the championship to Rangamar, the daughter of CNMI Hall of Fame inductee, Elias.

"This is all for Lia. She played great defense [throughout the tournament and] we

wouldn't have made the finals without her," said Labusa.

On their strategy in the finals, while Dream Team made a conscious effort to bomb away from the land of plenty, they also made sure to clamp down on BB Girls' shooters with Freddie Krueger-like ferocity.

"They're our best 3-point shooters so we try give them the ball a lot," said Labusa, who played mostly down low with spread-out shooters Travilla and Fernandez fading to the perimeter.

"Our strategy was to shut down their shooters and either force them to pass or take a bad shot," said Travilla, who's on Saipan for vacation. "I'm

happy to be back. There's no place like home!"

Fernandez, for her part, thanked MIBL for holding another 3x3 tournament. "There should be more events like this. I feel any kind of basketball tournament will be good because since the pandemic basketball kind of died out. Having it come back like this is really good."

Travilla paced the champion quartet with 11 points, while Fernandez ably supporter her with 9 points of her own. Labusa provided the muscle inside and added a deuce.

Madi Alegre got hot late to top-score for BB Girls with her 5 points, while Jasmine

Phan and Irish Pagarao were limited to 2 and 1 points, respectively. Mikky Kautz completed the four.

IT&E and Cristiano's served as the "MVP" sponsors of the MIBL 3x3 Season 2. Shirley's Coffee Shop, Eats Easy, Hong Ye Hardware, The Angry Penne, Latte Built Gym, Hot Deals, and The Game Athletics also supported the event as "All-Star" sponsors.

Results of the 16-and-under division of the MIBL 3x3 Season 2 tournament will be published in the next issue of the *Saipan Tribune*. Hole in the Wall won the men's open finals following a 15-11 victory over Mix Breed also Sunday.



Middleton's 38 power
Bucks past Hawks
113-102 for 2-1 lead

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Samoa vets make
up badminton
training pool

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Blue Ayuyus, Women's NT triumph



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI Boys U15 National Team's Wataru Kadokura, left, and the NMI Women's National Team's Stephanie Flores battle for possession during their exhibition game in the 2021 Soccer Summer Madness last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The starting 11 of the NMI Men's National Team pose for a photo before facing the M-League All-Stars in the second exhibition game in the 2021 Soccer Summer Madness last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Dream Team's 3-point barrage sinks BB Girls in finale of 3x3



MARK RABAGO

Dream Team's Jan Travilla attempts a point-blank shot against BB Girls' Irish Pagarao in the women's championship match of the Marianas Mariana Islands Basketball League 3x3 Season 2 tournament last Sunday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dream Team was a nightmare for BB Girls in their championship match as the former went on to win the women's division of the Mariana Islands Basketball League 3x3 Season 2 tournament last Sunday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

University of Guam varsity player Jan Travilla and

dribbling wiz Alliyah Fernandez connected on four triples apiece as Dream Team wiped the floor clean of BB Girls in the winner-take-all finale, 21-8. The game was so lopsided that the Dream Team-BB Girls match was the only championship decided by the first-to-21 rule and was finished with still 1:21 left on the game clock.

See DREAM on Page 19

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The NMI men's and women's national teams prevailed in the pair of exhibition games in the 2021 Soccer Summer Madness last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The NMI Women's National Team was pitted against the NMI Boys U15 National Team in the curtain-raiser of the event organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and pulled off a 1-0 victory. The men's crew, on the other hand, duelled the M-League All-Stars and cruised to a 4-1 triumph in the second match. Guine Borja, who is back on island for the school break, scored the lone goal in the opening match of last Sunday's double-header. The 20-year-old, who plays for Navarro College in the National Junior College Athletic



Association, lit up the board in the 62nd minute to lift the WNT to the close victory.

Joining Borja on the winning squad were Marinel Falalimpa, Christina Atalig, Jannah Casarino, Diane Pablo, Kristelle Itas, Julianne Hall, Summer Manahane, Britany Wally, Toremy Diaz, Katrina Costales, Pia Ngewakl, Kaithlynn Chavez, Allyssya Angeles, Tamia Hix, Stephanie Flores, Gabi Race, and Rizza Relucio.

Mark Chavez, Jonne Navarro, Anthony Austria, Le-

land Deleon Guerrero, Monico Claridades, Wataru Kadokura, Ian Song, Takeru Jim, Tristan Raho, Mark Costales, Anthony Bergancia, Philip Megino, Paul Lizama, Ruben Guerrerom Nolan Ngewakl, and Vicente Reyes suited up for the NMI Boys U15 National Team.

Meanwhile, four different players scored in the Blue Ayuyus' win over the M-League All-Stars.

Logan Mister drew first

See BLUE on Page 19

Mendoza's 65 nets him June Ace

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Lito Mendoza got a fitting Father's Day gift for himself after winning the FilTaga Golfers Association Ace of the Month Tournament in June.

The 74-year-old businessman shot a net 65 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo last June 17 to take home the top purse of \$150. June's best net score was built around a 40 in the front nine and 42 in the back nine, which before Mendoza's 17 handicap was calculated, gave him a gross score of 82.

FilTaga president Tony

Cabrera finished second to Mendoza for the June Ace. The 22-handicapper came away with a net score 70 after a 92 gross score. He went 45-47 in the first and final nine holes and won \$70 for his troubles.

Completing the Top 3 for the month was Hak Chon Bae, who fired a net 71 built around a 44 and 42 in the front and back nines that gave him a gross of 86. Bae, who won \$60, has a handicap of 17.

Bae actually tied Ruben Avendano for the month's third-



Mendoza

best net, but edged the latter in a scorecard tiebreak. Avendano, a 19-handicapper, swung a gross of 90 on the strength of a 43 in the front nine and a 47 in the back nine. He got \$50.

Henry Bautista rounded out the Top 5 for the June tourney after scoring a 72 net and was \$40 richer. The 13-handicapper had a gross of 85 following halves of 42 and 43. He beat Ed Varias (90 gross, 44-46) for fifth place on another scorecard tiebreaker.

Varias (Coral Ocean Point

Golf Resort certificate), Mike Cruz (COP certificate), Dan Ganacias (Kingfisher Golf Links certificate), and Jess Yumul (Kingfisher Golf Links certificate) were given in-kind prizes for also finishing in the Top 9.

With the win in the June Ace, Mendoza joins Bautista (January), Dan Ganacias (February), Eli Buenaventura (March), Cabrera (April), and William Retardo (May) for the yearend FilTaga Ace Tournament.

In the closest to the pin competition, Mendoza was without peer in hole No. 15, Cruz beat all comers in hole No. 12,